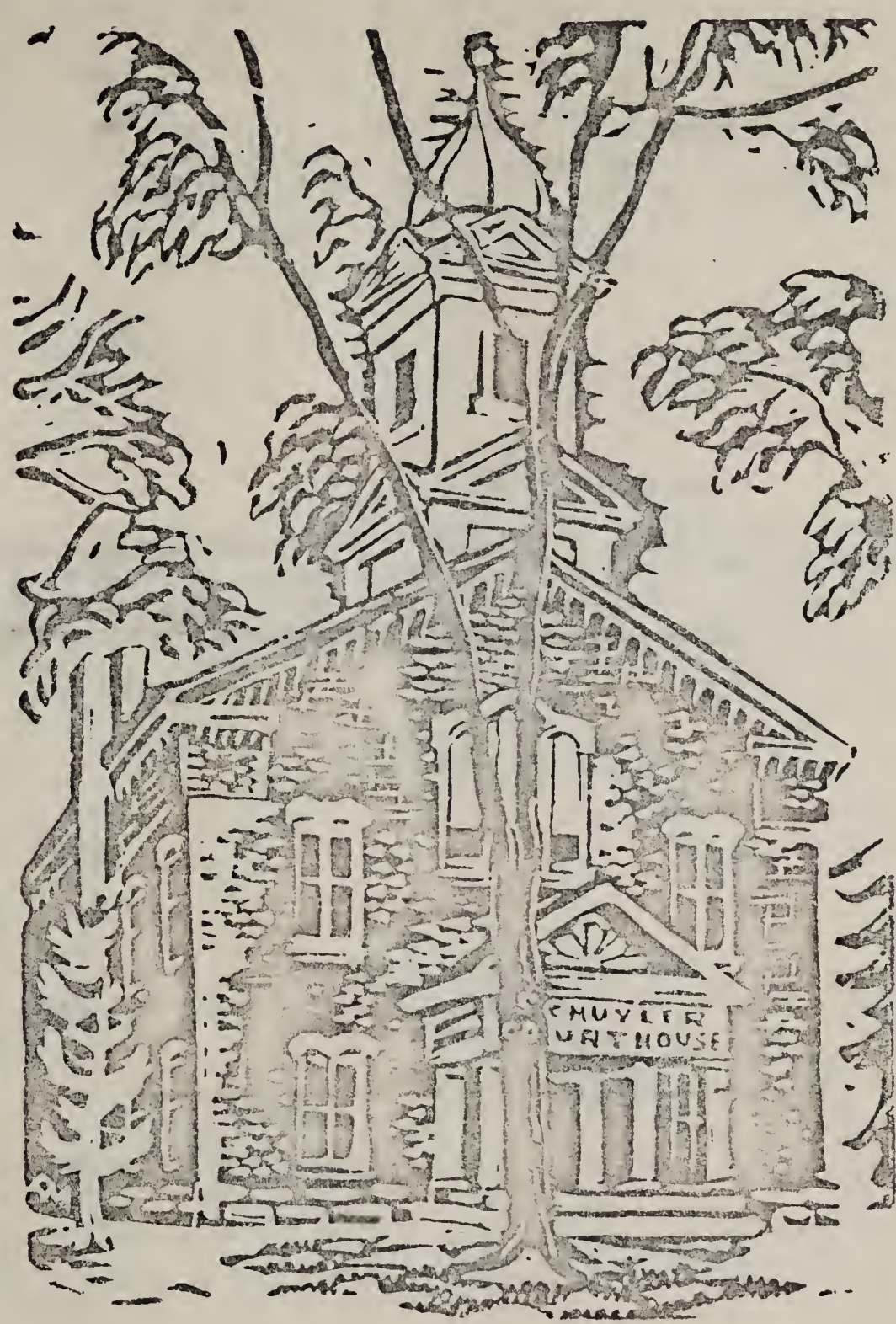
563

To Lloyd Jr.
From "The Warners"
Christmas 1954

Schuyler County, N. Y.

The First Hundred Years



SCHUYLER COUNTY COURT HOUSE — Built 1857

Wood cut by Mary Robinson

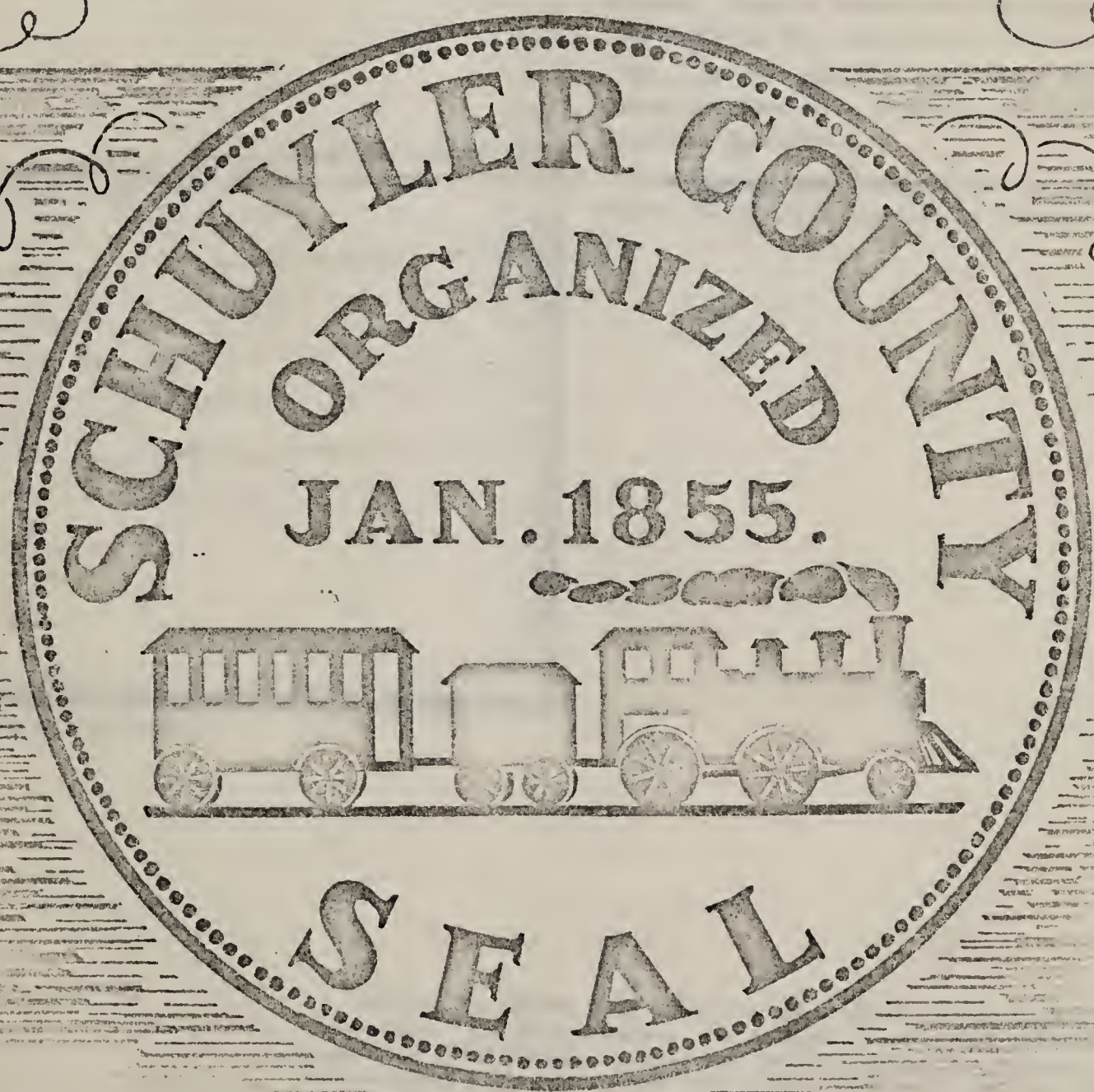
1854 - 1954

563

SCHUYLER COUNTY, NEW YORK. Centennial Committee.
Schuyler County, N.Y., the first hundred years, 1854-1954. [n.p.,1954.
63p. illus.,ports.,maps. 28cm.

SCHUYLER COUNTY

The First Hundred Years



1854 1954

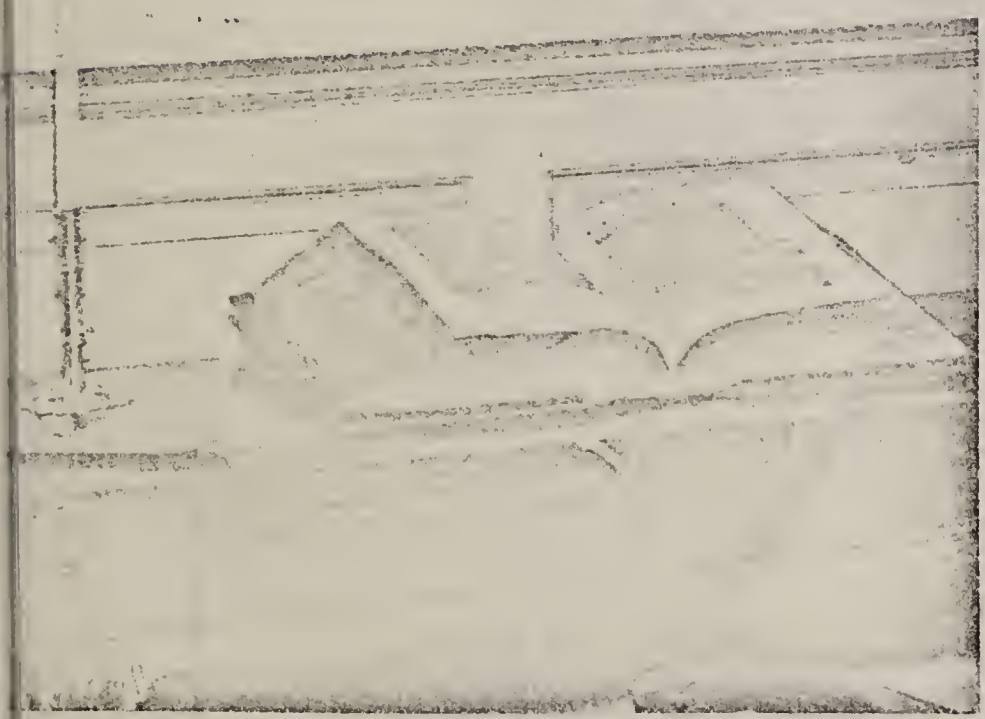
PHILLIP JOHN SCHUYLER

1733-1804

General Schuyler, for whom the county is named, was one of four major generals in the Continental Army. After serving in the French and Indian War (1755-58), he formed a lumber business at Saratoga, N. Y. and built one of the first flour mills in America. In 1764, he was on the Boundary Commission to determine claims of New York and Massachusetts, and in 1775 became a member of the Continental Congress. In the Revolution, he actively led expeditions and became a Major General. Then as United States Senator, he promoted canal building from the Hudson River to Lake Erie.

He and his wife, Catherine Van Rennselaer had eleven children, one of whom became the wife of Alexander Hamilton.

This portrait and family Bible are pictured in the hall of the Schuyler Mansion in Albany.

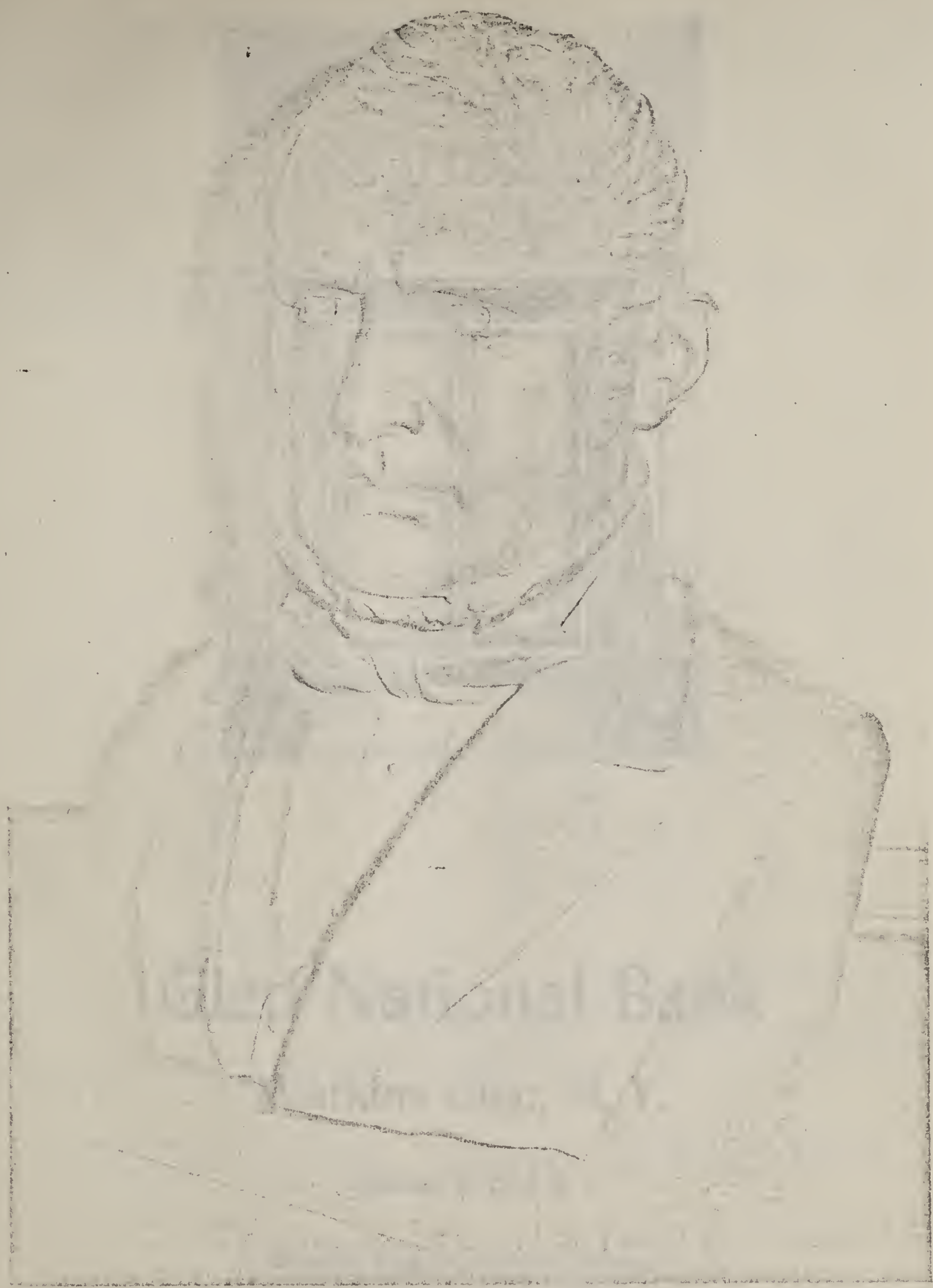


NYS PIX-Commerce

CHARLES COOK, born November 20, 1800 in Otsego County, came to Havana when twenty-nine. He never married. He engaged in canal and railroad construction, served as supervisor, State Senator, member of the State Canal Commission. He presented Havana with a church and a college, and built a hotel, a business block and other civic buildings. He died in Auburn, following a paralyzing sickness in 1866. His leadership made Schuyler County possible. This statue, given to Cook Academy by Dr. Halsey Ives, is the work of R. P. Bringhuist and is now in the Montour Memorial Library.

—Photo by R. O. Bale, Jr.

Gift of
Mrs. Hugh Heaton Lederdown, Jr.
Chicago, Ill.



Glen National Bank

Watkins Glen, N. Y.

Member F. D. I. C.

Member Federal Reserve System

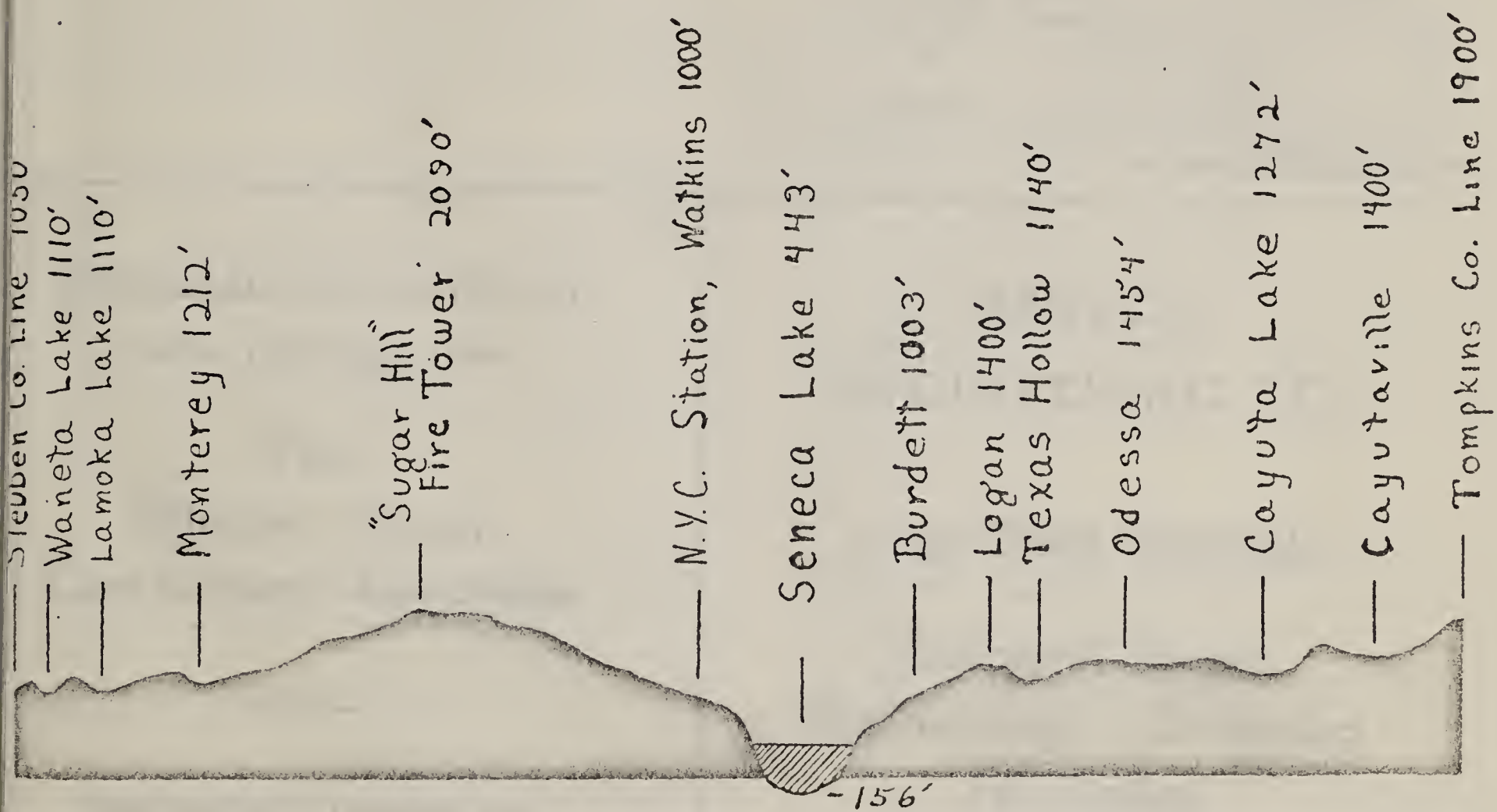
A COUNTY IS BORN

Indians dwelt in upper Watkins Glen before Columbus' time. Pre-Iroquois mounds excavated between Lamoka and Waneta Lakes reveal a substantial Indian settlement here. The Rochester Museum preserves these early Indian relics.

After Sullivan's main army burned and drove out Indians in September 1779, from Sheoquaga (Montour Falls), Peach Orchard, and Candawhaw (N. Hector), the area was settled by families from the northeast coastal states.

Chemung County was partitioned just ahead of 1854 when Schuyler County was erected. The citizens of Catharine township (in Chemung) were unhappy to have Elmira rather than Horseheads chosen as county seat and persuaded neighboring towns to agitate for a new county. Separation from Chemung, Steuben and Tompkins counties was popular locally as it would halve distance to public offices. The personal interests and ambition of Charles Cook of Havana were also a factor and with his leadership the act erecting Schuyler County was signed in April 1854.

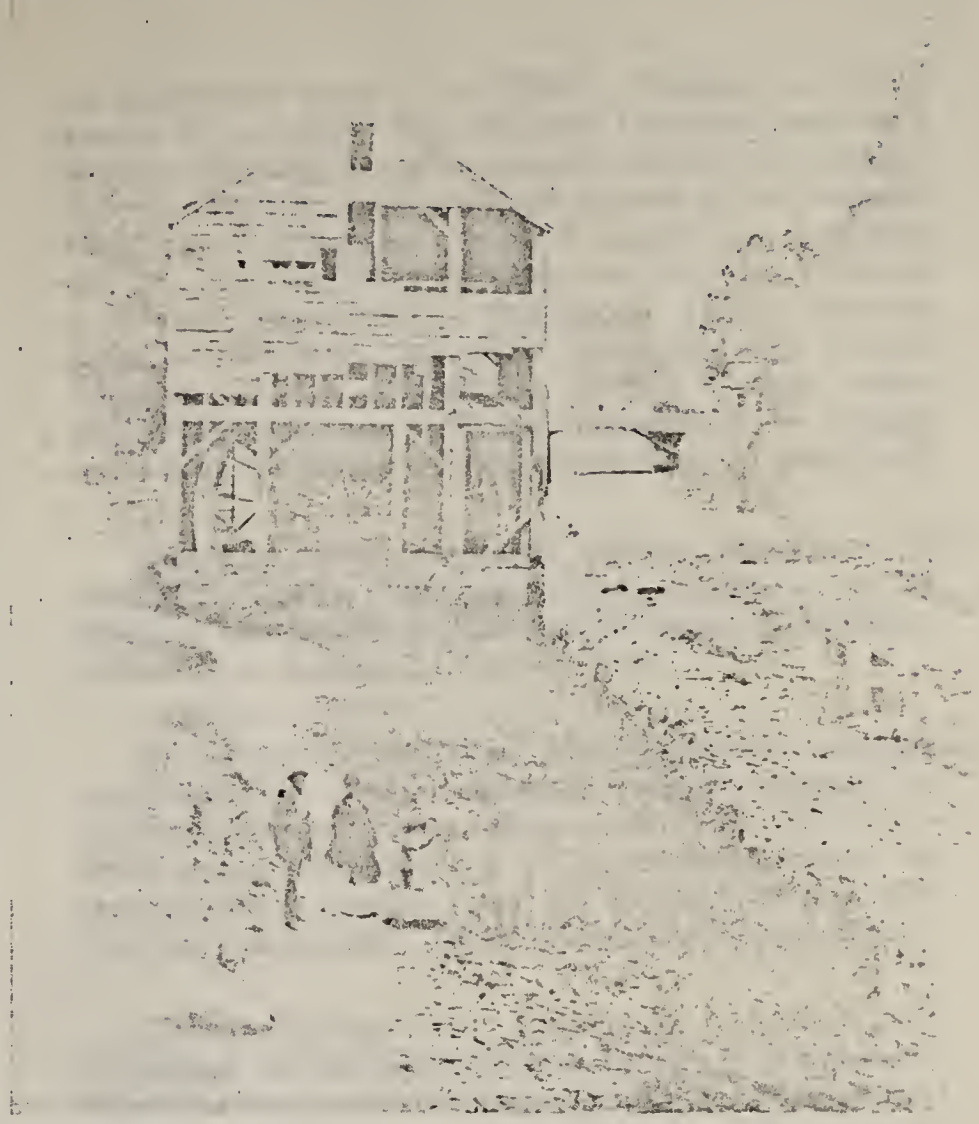
The 336 square miles in the new county have an interesting contour as is indicated by the sketch below.



Schuyler County Profile Looking North

6 X Vertical Exaggeration

Schuyler County "got seated" with considerable ficulty due to the zealous efforts of Havana and atkins to become the county seat. Words were ntiful and feelings waxed warm as Mr. Cook's and . Freer's groups offered sites and buildings, npared heights above lake level, their hotels, enue from post offices, number of small-pox cases, tribution of wealth and intellect, rights of super- ors and the State Legislature in the decision. ghteen years passed before all legal details were ared, all fully reported in the 5 year old Havana urnal and the Watkins Republican, just started.



The old mill at Watkins Glen before the park was operated by the State. Streams throughout the county were utilized to grind and mill and tan. These two couples—the men in tight unpressed trousers; the women in hoop skirts—doubtless enjoyed the Glen's cool, fern-clad cliffs just as thousands do each day in 1954.

—Photo from Finger Lakes Park Commission

THE COUNTY IN 1854

The hills and valleys of the new Schuyler County had 16,181 people. Jefferson had just become Watkins in honor of Dr. Samuel Watkins, founder and financier of much of the area and its development. A majority of county residents had been born outside the county lines. In Catharine township 397 of 1,097 were not natives. The Connecticut Hill area when sold seemed to bring many residents to this county from Connecticut.

Lincoln and Douglas had begun their speeches on slavery in new western areas. Newly laid railroads sent farm values up $2 to $10 per acre due to improved markets. Butter was 18c, eggs 12c, maple syrup 11c, poultry 9c, potatoes 38c (bu.), cider cost $1.50 a barrel. Frost Nurseries front page ads drove the stories clear out of the Havana Journal for a fortnight telling of fruit and ornamental trees. Catharine Valley Agricultural Society was 18 years old and talk of a Schuyler Agricultural Society led to organization in '55. Passenger pigeons in huge clouds menaced the crops. Most produce was consumed at home. It took 10 farm hands to produce food for 15 people in 1854. (Now in 1954 one farmer produces enough food for himself and 14 others).

Education was far from universal. Montour's Mrs. A. Lyon had a school teaching English for $5.00 a term, French, drawing and painting $8.00, small scholars $2.00 (boys and girls). Vocations were learned by apprenticing. Less than half of school age young people attended school at all and those only a short term per year. Investment in schools of New York State was $2.00 per potential pupil. A school mistress who danced had to defend herself in court as late as 1859 to keep her job. Elmira Female College had just started and Hobart had a record class of 43 entering.

One could buy a weekly paper for $1.00 per year, Sears' "great work" on Russia for $3.00 and Harper's Monthly had the Life of Napoleon as a serial, an account of a "Day in a Lunatic Asylum" (at Blackwell Island, N. Y.), recent current events and a couple style pages all in one copy. Godey's Lady's Book was in the better homes.

The only "lodge" in the county was Jefferson Lodge F & A M 332 founded with 12 members in June 1854.

Temperance Societies were strong and influential. Hector had 1,064 members at its height.

Churches filled a great need. There were over 50 churches active in 1854, 7 in Tyrone township alone. The church was the meeting place for religious and patriotic gatherings.

Social life was far from dull. Valentines could be purchased from 2c to $2.00. Postage was 3c, a recent 1c increase. The Dresden Cotillion Band of 8 pieces was available at a price for polkas, schottische, waltzes. Barnum advertised 90 infants in his National Baby Show including a baby 3 months old weighing 66 lbs. One circus at Havana cost 25c and included a French Equestrienne Burlesque (gross revenue $900.). Bloomers, although advocated by Amelia Bloomer of our neighboring Seneca County, were shortlived and one railroad threatened to charge extra fare for ladies wearing more than 20 petticoats.

Marriage was considered pretty essential. In fact Mr. Cook's "dourness" was explained in his obituary as probably due to his being a bachelor following a disappointment in love.

On October 14, 1854, an inquisitive reporter observed "A newly married couple stopped at Montour House in this village on Monday last. The bride was a young lady of 17 years and weighed 430 pounds. If a husband can be satisfied with a wife this one has enough. They were from Pennsylvania."

Transportation was improving. News from Liverpool arrived by packet in Boston in a fortnight. Here the ten year old telegraph was being improved rapidly thru efforts of Ezra Cornell. The railroads were running and more being planned. The corduroy road up from Havana to Catharine to Mecklenburg was 4 years old and proving hard to maintain. The Chemung Canal was feeling competition of railroads. Postoffices vied with each other in reported receipts. Horses and carriages were major businesses. There were more horses than cattle. The relative convenience of shillings or cents was discussed. Both were used.

Hotels and taverns were plentiful. The Havana county office buildings were going up under contract. The papers were full of comments on Whigs, Know Nothings, Fusionists and Locofocos. The railroads and canals hired many and provided transportation and market for much farm produce including hay for the canal tow horses. The miller and blacksmith were key men.

Life was more risky than now. If you lived to get started at all, pneumonia, diphtheria, smallpox or tuberculosis or other ailments killed many off soon, despite the heroic attempts of more rural doctors than now serve us.

There were no local hospitals, no health department, no Pasteurization or herd tests, no water works and little knowledge of sanitation. Large families were necessary for survival and the first cemetery at County Line records many early deaths. There were few traffic accidents however.

CHURCHES

There were in 1879, 54 churches including 1 African Methodist, 2 Wesleyan Methodist, 2 Union, 1 Roman Catholic, 3 Protestant Episcopal, 9 Presbyterian, 2 Friends, 1 Christian Connection, 16 Methodist Episcopal, 1 Universalist. By 1900 the number of churches began to decline to 38 in 1954. New denominations included Church of Nazarene, Pentecost and Community.

Men of means such as Duncan and John Magee, George Freer, Charles and Albert Cook, John Mulford, Warren Clute, the Leffingwells and Lawrences gave freely to build and beautify their own and other churches. Parishioners sacrificed and worked giving money, timbers, shingles, nails and labor to erect churches.

Almost every church has its warm fascinating history. The church of the town of Hector erected in 1818 on the site getting the greatest public subscription is the oldest church edifice standing today. Admired for its flowers is Tyrone Methodist Church where the women during 20 years have planted 21 varieties of lilacs.

St. Mary's of the Lake (Catholic) was started as a mission by a Protestant, George Quin in 1846. He negotiated the purchase of the first (abandoned) Presbyterian Church building on First and Jackson streets. The Catholics weathered the Know-Nothing opposition and welcomed the Italian immigrants attracted after 1890 by vineyards, the salt, canal and railroad work. This church pioneered "Released time" religious instruction in 1945 at Watkins. Catharine Methodist Episcopal has the oldest recorded church organization started in 1805.

At Reading two parishes united their two buildings to create a true united church. Cayutaville Methodist Church bought the abandoned Mecklenburg Baptist Church as building materials.

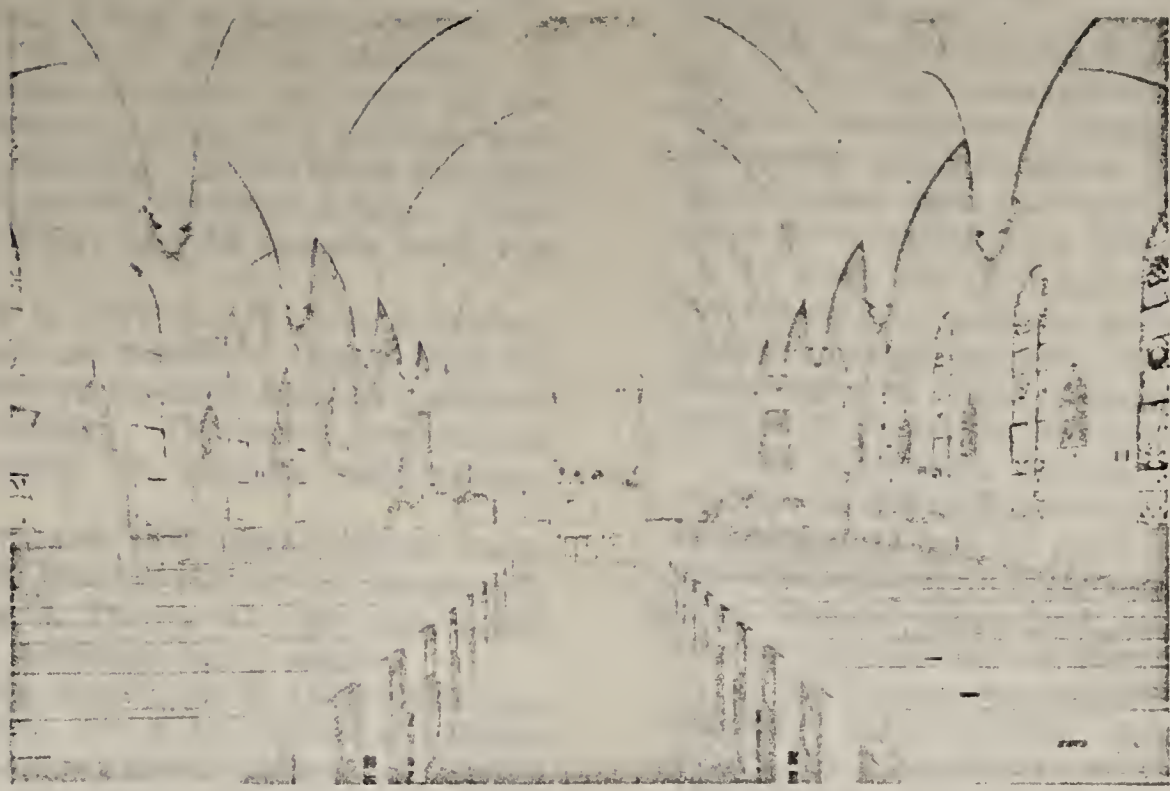
Sunday Schools were strong during most of the century. Picnics were big affairs and were held on canal barges, in the glens and parks. The word picnic is reported originating when a Hector Sunday School group picked up their knicknacks for an outing on the lake and created the word.

Religious conferences were or are held at the old Valois Camp Meeting Grounds, the present Lamoka Bible Camp and at Hidden Valley Camp in Watkins Glen.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE TOWN OF HECTOR

The oldest church building in use in Schuyler County, erected in 1818. Here is the crowd leaving the church after an oration on July 4, 1916. The carriage sheds were later used to build Sunday School rooms and a kitchen at the rear of the building. Fourth of July was a grand day!

—Glen Mickel collection



ST. MARY'S OF THE LAKE CATHOLIC CHURCH

In 1951 remodeled and enlarged under the guidance of Rev. Benedict Ehmann. This Catholic parish includes all of Schuyler County and is served by two priests and three Fillippini Sisters.

—Symes Studio

BEAVER DAMS CHURCH AND PARSONAGE is a true religious and musical center. In pre-railroad days the church overlooked a wide pond on which folks rowed when Sunday School picnic time rolled around. The beavers put up some strong dams but man's inventions and gadgets made the beavers and the pond move on.

—Picture from Mrs. Leon Hall

EDUCATION (Past & Present)

Prof. Hall's Select School at Watkins became in 1860 the Academy a year after its founding. It became a Union School in 1864. A report for the year 1876 of this school reported 912 children with an average of 423 attending. $4,872.09 of the total $6,799.21 budget was for teachers' salaries. One hundred fifty-three hours and 38 minutes were lost by tardy pupils.

Schuyler County in 1879 had 131 school districts with property valued at $69,978. There were 84 men teachers, 145 women teachers and 4,611 scholars (attendance not available). That same year Havana had 150 pupils taught by teachers with salaries totaling $1,024!

The school districts in 1879 were located: Catharine 14, Cayuta 10, Dix 15, Hector 45, Montour 7, Orange 18, Reading 8, Tyrone 17. In only a few cases were districts combined for a school.

Schools in Odessa were built in 1825, 1830 and in 1877 on present site. Dr. A. H. Jackson and Ralph Winton had the school raised and a lower floor added in 1906 and four years later it became a Union School with a 2 year high. In 1912 the full 4 year high school was established. Odessa centralized in 1938 combining 38 school districts.

A large new building and an addition to this have been built. A new elementary school has been authorized in 1954. This is typical growth and change.

Watkins in 1929 built a new brick school following a disastrous fire, and in 1953 moved the grammar grades to a new building adjacent to the old County Agricultural Society grounds.

About 25% of the county's youth now attend central schools outside the county. This year, 1954, one-room schools were still open in North Beaver Dams, Townsend, Moreland, Perry City, Reynoldsville, Meads Creek, Star District, and Sickles Hollow with two-room elementary schools in Beaver Dams, Mecklenburg, and Monterey.

Both Odessa and Watkins Glen run evening adult classes with subjects taught including business, law, driver training, shop wood work, farm welding, clothing, and art.

The Peoples College founded by the Cooks and soon becoming a semi-private Cook Academy under Baptist management flourished until war and a depression closed its doors. These facilities for some years unused were purchased by the Friars of Atonement for a seminary for 100, opening in 1950.

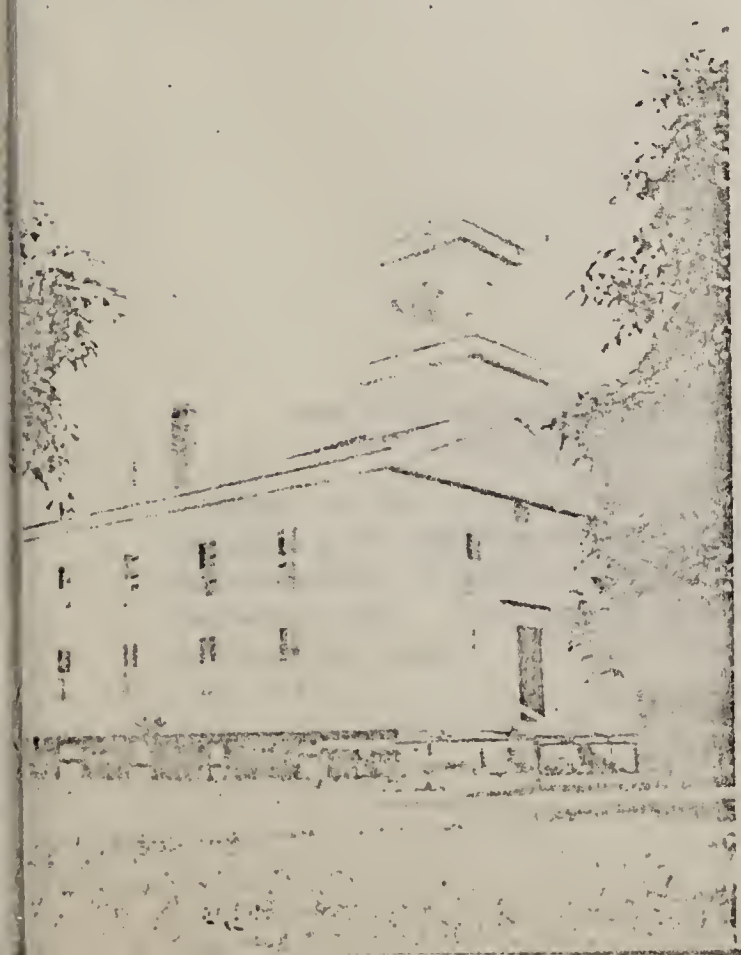
In 1949 the Glen Springs Hotel, having had a brief time as a post-war dormitory for Cornell University married students, was bought by the Polish Franciscans to establish Padua High School and St. Anthony's Friary on this beautiful site.

The Extension Service of Cornell University through its Farm, Home and 4-H Club departments in the county has for over a quarter of a century provided up-to-date farm and homemaking information, demonstrations and leadership. This service reaches into all areas of Schuyler County.

In 1954, there are 14 schools in Schuyler County instead of 125 as in 1854. Value of schools in county, $4,675,100. Enrollment is 2,990 students taught by 130 teachers. School census (age 1-18) in the county showed 4,335 young people in 1954. The county schools (not including cost of education in surrounding central schools outside the county) expended $1,035,979.37 in 1953 or about $346. per student.

Adult education is nothing new for in 1878 the Schuyler Teachers Association had developed such a program that 1,000 people attended a tour to a coal mine in Antrim under their auspices. Discussions and debates were well attended and run in the latter half of the 19th century. Today Parent-Teacher Associations holding monthly meetings serve a similar purpose.

Allied to education is art. Schuyler County has had three outstanding artists and two cartoonists of note. James D. Hope, a Vermont native, came to Watkins in 1870 and remained to paint Glen and county scenes until his death in 1892. Dr. Halsey C. Ives started as a sign painter, became internationally famous and became head of The St. Louis School of Art. In recent years, Mary Robinson has made sketches and wood cuts and paintings which have won wide acclaim in exhibitions. Bill Whiting is well known for cartoons in Elmira and other papers. Sam Cobean had just begun to display his versatility as a cartoonist when killed in an automobile accident. These latter three artists are 20th Century.



In 1864, the Academy at Watkins showed effort in the Civil War era to house schools well. Schuyler County residents gave early attention to educational opportunities for those wanting to learn.

Now in 1954, school facilities have increased greatly. In Odessa School district, for example, buses travel 500 miles per day, bringing young people to a modern school worth over a million and a half dollars.

—Photo loaned by Charles Haight

ODESSA SCHOOL was in 1906 raised and enlarged by building a first floor under it. School demands kept growing until centralization and a growing population makes it necessary to construct a large addition and a new grammar school in a decade to accommodate 1,000 young people.

—Photo from the Jack Ash collection

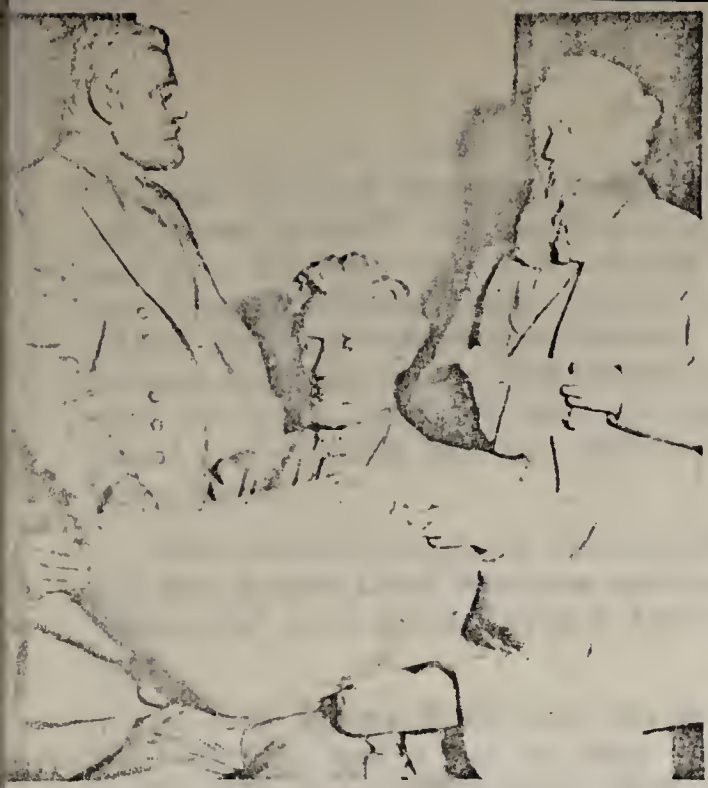
Peoples' College or Cook Academy built in 1862-63 by the Cooks, nearly became the Land-Grant College for New York State, but alert, aggressive Ithacans and the death of Charles Cook shifted the grant to Cornell University for an agricultural college. The Academy is now St. John's Atonement Seminary.

—Photo from Montour Library collection

THE NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
WATKINS GLEN

Typical of the care and interest in our youth's education is the adequate expanded facilities in such a modern building as this, occupied for the first time in September 1953. This building cost $1,400,000. and will hold 850 pupils.

—Photo by R. O. Bale, Jr.



ogers" Group, "The Council of War", popular in 19th century homes. This one depicts Grant, ln and Stanton in conference to find ways to save Jnion, for which cause Schuyler County Citizens ced and gave their lives. This is now preserved e Montour Library.

—R. O. Bale photo

MILITARY

Schuyler County, settled largely by adventurous men from Sullivan's Expedition and others "Going West", was named for a leading military man and the county has made large sacrifices every war. Charles Cook formed and sent on its way with expenses personally paid by him, a regiment of men immediately after the firing on Ft. Sumter. Schuyler County sent 20 regiments to the War between the States and suffered heavy casualties.

Again in World War I Schuyler County contributed its full share (450) men, losing 21 men and women and greeting with heavy hearts many more broken in health or maimed.

World War II called out 1500 men and women of which 60 were killed. And the end is not in sight in far corners of the earth where our folks live and die to help freedom ring.

With the last G.A.R. man gone, the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars carry on educational programs to prevent wars and their causes.

During World War II surrounding areas such as Sampson Naval Base and Horseheads Supply Department called out all our available men and women for work thus speeding the trend of women entering work outside the house. One CCC Camp in Cayuta housed German war prisoners following War II.

In the opening years of the 20th century, Odessa's Fourth of July was the occasion for a parade of the military, the firemen, civic groups and the best in transportation, be it horse or automobile. The local band provided music. Odessa still celebrates holidays in similar fashion—especially Old Home Week and Labor Day.

—Photo from the Jack Ash collection

GETTING AROUND

After the Civil War, the Chemung Canal declined and ceased in 1877. Railroads became more important. The third railroad (now Lehigh) was completed thru Cayuta, Odessa, Burdett, Hector in 1890. Over 10,000 men worked on this project. Many strange workers liked the county and became residents. Until 1920 or so the railroads were the main method to travel any distance, and are still the main road for heavy goods.

Some traveled by ferry and steamer; and in the gay 90's Seneca Lake was alive with craft. A steamer "Henrietta" even plied Kayutah Lake (Little) for a time.

In 1893 Henry Ford built his first auto and in 1893 Haynes had a car for sale. In 1880 Edison invented his Electric Railroad. Both inventions were soon felt in Schuyler for on May 19, 1900 under leadership of General John Mulford of Montour Falls, an Elmira company opened an electric railroad to Watkins which ran until 1923. Here was cheap and clean transportation. In 1904 the Thompsons and Beardsleys had their steam automobiles here. In 1908 Dr. A. H. Jackson of Odessa (now of Watkins Glen) changed from horse & buggy to acetylene-lighted open Ford to get around to his patients. By 1909 the Leffingwells of Watkins were taking an October tour by automobile in The White Mountains and The Havana Journal had an editorial condemning reckless "scorchers" and joy riders in the new cars. But Cronk Machine Shop had a nice order of 1,000 dozen wrenches to repair cars.

By 1910 Curtiss' aeroplane could fly 7 miles from cruiser to shore but not until 1928 did Schuyler have a "plane" service with David Love's farm in Burdett as base. Now there are three small airfields in Montour Falls, Burdett and near the Grand Prix course.

Advertisements in 1910 boasted of classy cars with 25 h.p. for $1,000. And in 1912 meetings and editorials urged street pavings in the village and on main highways. An early black top was Burdett Hill in 1920 and Hector's Lake Road was hardtopped in 1922-23. The log roads had been expensive to maintain. The new roads were expensive too but automobile owners demanded them. By 1954 there were 5,000 automobiles and 1,200 commercials registered in Schuyler County.

THE BEARDSLEYS steam down the road in 1904. This Buffalo-made steamer had power but not too much traction for clay roads. Still, riding was real fun. Mrs. Albert Forbes who furnished the picture is the little girl with the big smile.

THE LAKE ROAD

Just North of Hector Falls

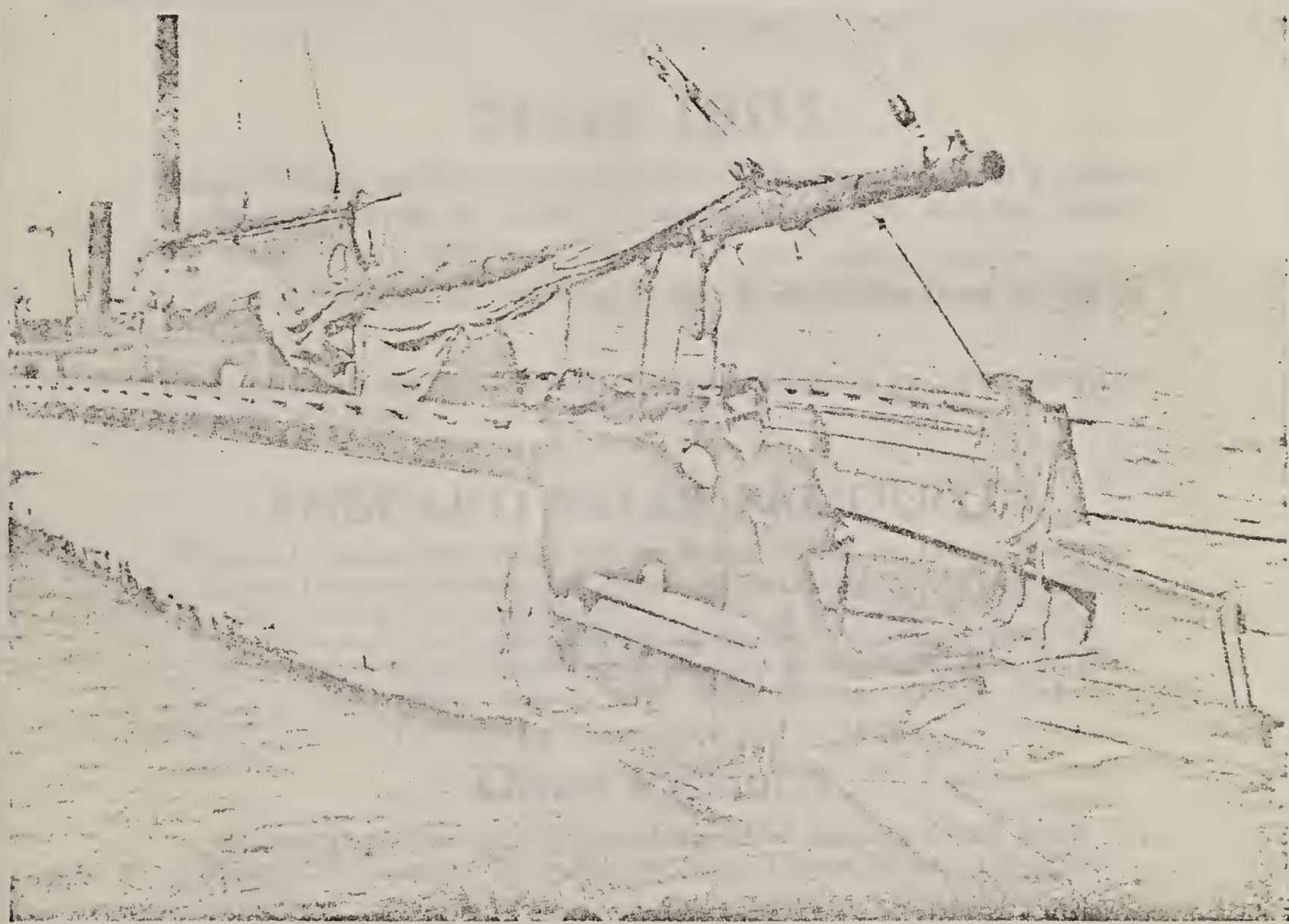
A watering trough is located near the "big tree." The picture, dated in 1911, shows a better class road of its day. No gravel—just plain clay. On this same road was laid some of the first concrete and now with an improved blacktop is as smooth as a dance floor.

—Picture from Glen Mickel

HAVANA IN CANAL DAYS

When the County was Formed

In this painting, now hanging in Montour Memorial Library, we see the Montour House owned and built by Charles Cook; his office which burned (and led to formation of better fire protection); the canal which went north to Seneca Lake and the Erie Canal, south to the Susquehanna. This painting was by E. P. James.

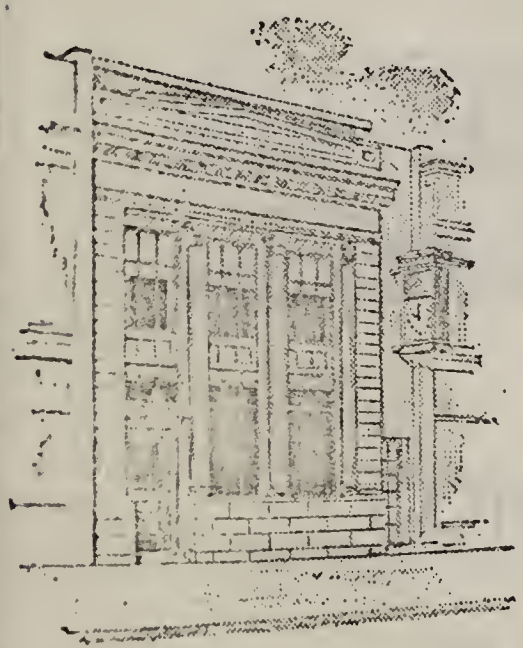


THE GOOD SHIP "GOODWIN"

Being a ferry which, starting in 1825, was later piloted by Captain Wood from North Hector (Valois) to Starkey. This picture was included in a privately printed set of poems and essays created by guests at "Fossenvue", one of the first summer homes at North Hector Point on Seneca Lake. The ferry needed no dock or slip—just lower the planks and drive ashore. Simple and inexpensive! Little to get out or repair in winter storms.

From "Embers in Fossenvue Backlogs"—copy owned by Glen Mickel.

VALOIS COMMUNITY CHURCH had a replica of Goodwin's Ferry at North Hector with an unusually fine group of costumed passengers, as their part in the Centennial Parade.



DELBERT E. FOOTE
Assistant Vice-President
and Manager

Watkins Glen Office

221 N. Franklin St., Watkins Glen, N. Y.

Marine Midland's WATKINS GLEN OFFICE was established in 1911 as the Watkins State Bank. A well-known Watkins Glen merchant, Charles M. Durland, was its president and served until his death in 1929. In 1931 the bank became affiliated with the Elmira bank and was made a branch office in 1939.

Today, Marine Midland Trust Company of Southern New York with resources of over one hundred million dollars serves the entire Southern Tier. Each community benefits through the strength of resources, the wide contacts, the combined knowledge and experience of officers and directors. Yet each office is supervised by an advisory board of local businessmen who know the needs of their community, and is staffed by local people.

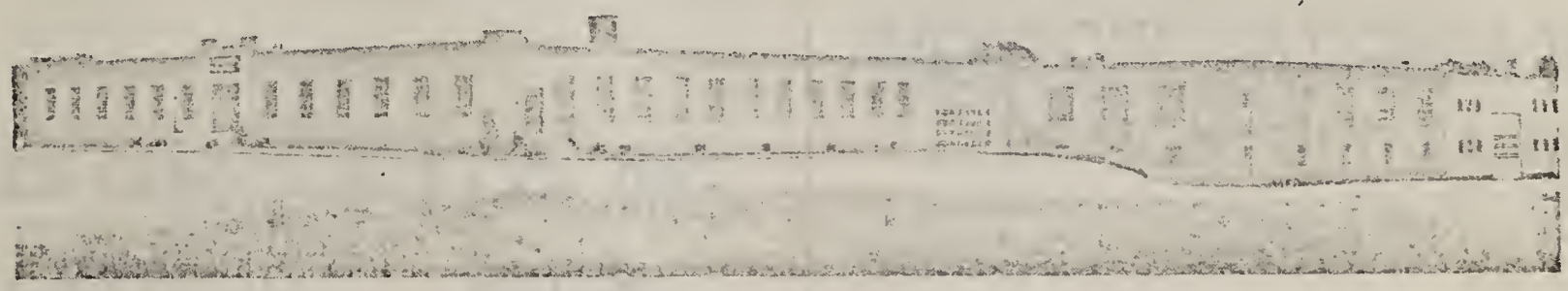
MARINE MIDLAND TRUST COMPANY
of Southern New York

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

BUILDING THE LEHIGH RAILROAD

Over 13,000 men labored to lay these tracks through Cayuta, Odessa, Burdett, Hector. Many men emigrated to work here and became permanent settlers. This was in 1890.

—Photo, Mrs. Harry Dean



OUR RETAIL STORE AT ODESSA

THE TROLLEY TO ELMIRA

Maiden Trial Trip over Watkins Glen to Elmira road—May 19, 1900.

The Elmira and Seneca Lake Electric Railroad took five years to build and had to be largely rebuilt in 1905 due to flood damage. Cars left Watkins Glen and Elmira every hour. The road discontinued operation January 1923; the same motorman and conductor being on both the first and last cars run. Local men in the picture include Judge O. P. Hurd, Charles Frost, (Watkins Glen); James A. Shepard, Dr. D. C. Clawson, Dr. George M. Post (Montour Falls).

—Photo: property Montour Falls Library

BUILDING AN EARLY HARD-TOP ROAD in Hector in 1922. These roads were very expensive. Steam powered equipment was used. In 1954 state and county roads are well paved and major attention is given to farm-to-market town roads, where heavy equipment is widening, ditching and grading.

—Glen Mickel photo

INDUSTRY

While Schuyler County is essentially agricultural, its manufacturing and processing industries have made a steady and healthy growth.

In 1856 kerosene lamps costing ½c an hour to run, and shedding 4 candle power were sold locally.

Tanneries, grist and flour mills were important industries, now largely departed from the scene; although there are today important feed mills in Odessa, Mecklenburg and Watkins Glen. In 1861 the Beaver Dams Tannery handled 500 hides and used 50 cords of bark in the operation.

In 1869, Watkins Glen started its own manufactured gas plant and boasted of street-lights lit even on moonlight nights.

The Civil War drained the county of funds and manpower for a time. But in 1875 steam replaced water power in Odessa's saw mill. In 1879 Watkins had the railroads, box and barrel factory, 2 banks, a carriage manufacturing and 2 Express Companies, a salt plant and a lumber yard. In 1890 over 10,000 workers were working on the railroad thru Cayuta, Odessa and Burdett and Hector. In 1891 the Watkins Water Works went in.

In 1899 U. S. manufactures were 11 billion compared with 2 billion in 1849. Population in New York State in 1850—(3,097,394), more than doubled in 1900—(7,168,012) and again doubled in 1950—(14,830,192). Schuyler County did not increase during this period but furnished young people for the cities and large villages.

Auto repair garages have replaced and then surpassed the importance of livery stable, blacksmith shop and harness shop combined.

As has been indicated the tourist trade is big business for the villages of this county from post Civil War days on to the present.

As the industrial revolution came into full stride Shepard Niles (as Pneumatic Tool Company) in 1903 and Seneca Engineering (1904) firms were started.

The 8 hour day had not been considered seriously at this time but working conditions were improving.

Incentives for women working in industry, if such were needed, came with the three major wars (Civil, World War I and World War II). With the improvement of typewriters and the discovery that women were very adept at using them, the woman typist or typewriter operator became common.

The late 1880's and 90's brought wide-spread use of nationally advertised products such as Ivory Soap, Rough on Rats, W. K. Douglas $3.00 shoes.

Railroads as a major industry are here to stay apparently and Watkins with its 3 freight roads and 1 passenger route has great advantages in this facility. The railroads are the major taxpayers in several towns.

WATKINS (FRANKLIN STREET) looking north in an 1895 storm. Signs indicated a dentist, the Odd Fellows, Watkins Express, Ingham & Jewell Clothing. Drug Store, Postal Telegraph, Opera House, Luggage (Trunks), Salada Tea. Porch of the Jefferson House and tower of an early salt well also are visible. Those hitching posts look dangerously like their 1954 successors, the parking meters!

—Photo from Charles Haight col.

Burton J. Cotton and Howard A. Hanlon set up sawmills in 1923 starting the large lumbering and allied retail business now nationally known as Cotton-Hanlon.

Cayuta was selected as a permanent mill site because fine state highways and the Lehigh Railroad provided easy means to bring in logs and ship beautiful and useful finished lumber. Logs and lumber are imported from Africa, Central and South America, Mexico, the Philippines, India and Japan as well as from the deep swamps of our Southlands, the Rocky Mountains, Canada and our own Northeast. This plant is one of the largest lumber manufacturing and processing plants in the East handling a large portion processed by Schuyler County men and women, although plants are run also in the South and East Coast.

To provide a perpetual future source of raw materials and labor opportunity, 20,000 acres of forest land in or near this county have been bought and managed.

In 1928 Cotton-Hanlon established the "Home Complete" retail building business in Odessa to reach the thrifty and industrious potential customers of this area. This had become a million dollar business of its own, meeting the modern desire for ample display space and easy parking.

Thirty-one years' success in this enterprise stems from management, alertness to take advantage of favorable economic situations, excellent sources of responsible labor and complete road and rail transportation facilities.

Visitors are cordially welcomed at both Cayuta and Odessa thus providing a real opportunity for both county and out-of-county residents.

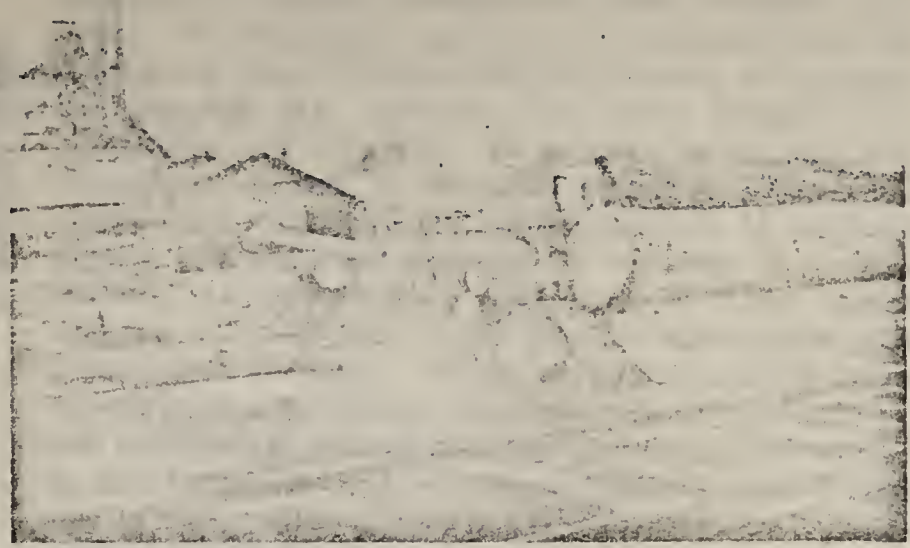
Shepard Niles Crane and Hoist Corporation of Montour Falls began in 1903 as Havana Bridge Company with capital of $4,900. James Shepard left the farm, started inventing pneumatic cylinder hoists and cranes so rapidly the management couldn't keep up with him. When electricity became available, that was used for power and in 1926 and 1929 they bought Niles Crane Works of Philadelphia, and the patents for electric motors from General Electric to round out the business now grossing 5 to 8 million dollars, a weekly pay roll of $42,000. to 525 people.

The employees started the Shepard Relief Hospital and the company has contributed $115,000 to date for what now is known as Schuyler Hospital.

A recent report shows installation all over the American Continents, Hawaii, the Philippines, Europe and Puerto Rico. Sydney Buckley now is president of Shepard-Niles.

Taxation trends are clear in the Shepard-Niles statements that 15c of each sales dollar was for taxes or 50c in taxes for every dollar paid in wages. Federal taxes and unemployment benefits exceeded a million dollars a year with New York State taking nearly $100,000 and real estate taxes nearly $20,000. at present.

The Seneca Engineering Company now in its 50th year in 1954 was started by George F. Barton and since 1949 directed by George T. Barton, his son. They employ 25 and design structural steel for buildings, bridges, and crane runways in many parts of the United States. They have offices in the former Montour House, now the M & M Club.



African mahogany logs imported at Cayuta Cotton-Hanlon plant

Southern swamp lands — a source of timber for import at Cotton-Hanlon's

In 1882 the Watkins Oil Well Company, drilling on the site of a spring well known to Indians for medicinal properties, discovered the salt deposit which is the basis for Schuyler County's salt industry. This well also led to the founding of the Glen Springs Sanitarium. The layer of salt is up to 300 feet thick and 1,800 feet down.

The first producer of salt was the Glen Salt Company in 1893, forerunner of the Glen Branch of International Salt which purchased the interest in 1904. J. F. Luhr is general manager and Francis Mead, superintendent. The International Salt claims to be the largest salt company in the world.

In 1898 the present Watkins Salt Company was founded with Warren W. Clute, Sr. as general manager. Since completion of wells, buildings and machinery in October 1899 the Watkins Salt Company on the south shore of Seneca Lake has been in continuous operation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

In 1907, a reorganization brought Mr. Clute in as president and general manager, positions which he held until his death in 1938 when his son, Warren W. Clute, Jr. took over. The Watkins Salt Company has grown to be one of the largest independently-owned salt companies in the country.

Continuous improvement and expansion have been necessary. In 1930 a complete modernization plan was begun including new buildings, new vacuum pans and machinery. This phase was completed in 1933. Recently a new administration building was completed.

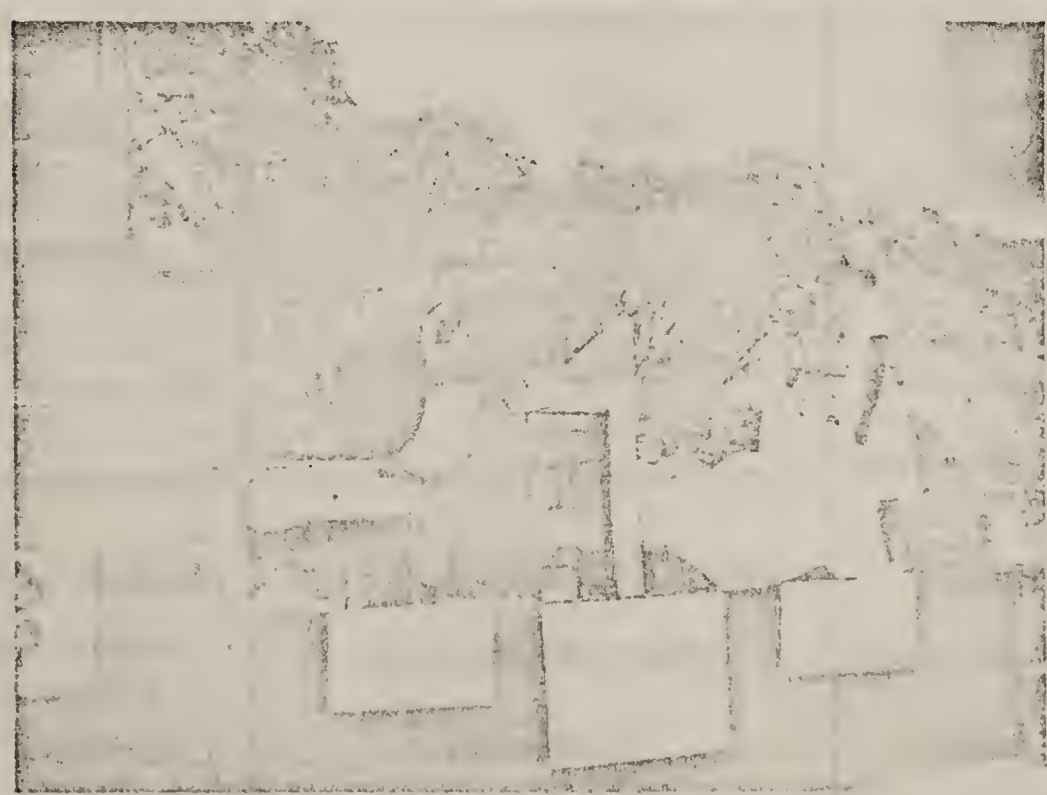
Success in this highly competitive field can only be achieved through application of up-to-date methods and planned efficiency and the maintenance of an even high quality product. The Watkins Salt Company feels its independent status facilitates successful progressive moves. Good relations with its 130 employees also is a contributing factor.

The salt works employed many Italians who came to the county and also helped take up the slack after the Chemung Canal ceased operation and the railroads had been built.

In an 1893-94 Schuyler County Directory there were listed 267 carpenters & builders, 160 livestock dealers, 155 grape growers, 99 school teachers (31 men), 74 raspberry growers, 73 dressmakers, 60 painters & paper hangers, 60 blacksmiths, 47 general storekeepers, 45 apiarists, 42 hotel keepers, 39 physicians, 35 clergymen, 34 grocers, 30 agricultural implement dealers, 27 saw mill operators, 19 produce dealers, 23 wagonmakers, 15 laundresses, 15 railroad agents, 15 harness makers, 15 carriage & wagon makers, 14 shingle mill operators, 14 fruit basket makers, 13 milliners, 13 barbers, 10 stenographers & typewriters (1 man). These occupations listed have nearly gone out: Cooper 6, crockery 6, driving park 1, fish culturist, grain cradles, hair workers, horsetrainers 6, iron founders 5, millwrights 6, opera houses 2, tanner of furs, stump puller 1, tobacco growers 10, well digger 1, kiln for china 1.

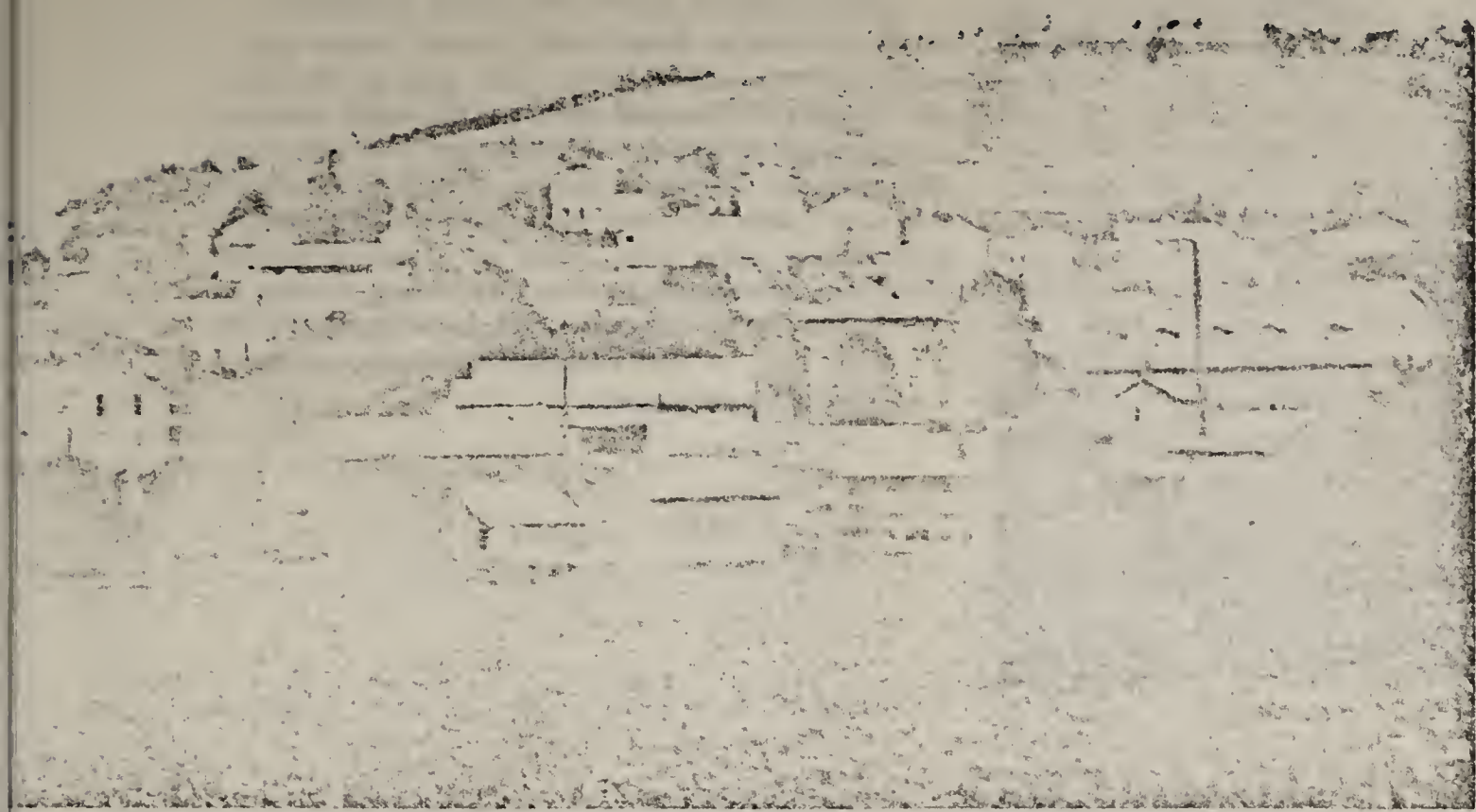
That year listed 1 junk dealer, 1 lecturer, 8 livery stables, 2 mineral springs, 2 taxidermists, 5 telephone exchanges, 7 printers, 5 photographers, 8 milk dealers, 1 loan agent, 7 liquor dealers, 2 inventors, 1 gas worker, 1 electric light worker, 5 dentists, 6 confectioners, 7 cider millers, 1 boiler worker and 7 auctioneers.

Unknown were dealers, manufacturers or repairers in automobiles, gasoline, radio, television, motorcycles, tractors, combines, hay balers, motel and cabin operators, professional firemen and baby sitters.



A CENTURY OF PROGRESS in Health and Medicine was portrayed by Watkins Glen Senior 4-H Club, one of six community 4-H floats in The Centennial Parade.

Your Schuyler County Insurance Agents



TYRONE VILLAGE 75 Years Ago (About 1878)

'he old school is on the bend of the hill to the left, the Methodist Church steeple may be seen. All the ıd the huge square house just behind them belonged to Charles Willis, State Senator, at the close of the The mills, which ran by water power, included a grist flour mill and a grape basket factory which nportant local industry. The hilltop above the village was nearly clear then, but like most steep sloped has reverted to woodland.

—Picture from Mrs. Ruth Caywood

THERE'S GOLD IN THEM THAR HILLS!

Our sheriff, Dana T. Burt, stands at the head of the Caleb Hayes gold mine shaft in the town of Orange between Sugar Hill and Six Nations. The sheriff can remember as a boy seeing men let down the shaft in a big basket. The depression marks the covered shaft. Pumps were to pump water from the mine. The gold proved too scarce for profit. Now golden maple syrup is made at Supervisor Lloyd Webb's farm in these parts. The mining lasted from 1885-91. Coal mining was attempted also at Woodward's Hill.

—Photo, Woodward Studio

GLEN MOUNTAIN HOUSE — on property now State Park.

This backed up to the High Bridge across the Glen, across which one could walk through Mr. Freer's cemetery to the Glen Springs Hotel. It took four horses to control the stage on its trip up from the railroad or boat, or down from the upper station. This hotel burned in the early 20th century. I'd like the room with the cupola on the right, thank you.

—Photo, William Kelly

AGRICULTURE

Farmers were getting organized when Hon. Charles Cook in 1863 reported 22 cows milked at an average of $41 per cow from sale of products on his cheese farm. The Schuyler County Sheep Growers had annual Sheep Shearing Festivals each May. Horse shows displayed the best in equestrian form. Two agricultural societies ran fairs. And by 1873 the Granges were being organized in Schuyler County to promote better farm living.

The year 1865, when Cornell University was organized, the crops grown, and investments in farm machinery were vastly different than today. In '65 the census reports 51,970 lbs. of tobacco from the town of Dix, (about half the county total); 7,731 tons of hops, 176 acres of flax, 16,149 lbs. of honey, besides 110,221 bushels of potatoes and 72,032 bushels of winter wheat from Schuyler County. The county farms valued at $7,724,992 had tools and implements valued at only $273,480 to plow and work 41,699½ acres.

One thousand seven hundred seventy neat cattle ready for slaughter, 1,079,913 lbs. of pork and 24,822 lambs helped provide the county's 18,441 citizens with meat.

Two hundred forty thousand two hundred fifteen lbs. of wool were shorn and dogs killed 303 lambs in 1865. The dog problem is not a new one.

Domestic manufactures of cloth in 1865 amounted to 1,723 yards fulled cloth, 3,508 yards flannel, 3,933 yards linen, 16 yards cotton.

Much work was done by beasts of burden which outnumbered the cows; in 1874 amounting to 6,160 horses, 1,408 oxen, 109 mules and 7,435 cows. Home churns turned out 917,682 pounds of butter that year, and 24,510 pounds of cheese. Only 44,659 gallons of milk were sold.

The hay requirements were large for all this livestock.

With extension of railroads there was a wider and steadier market for farm produce, but in the late 19th century the closing of the Chemung Canal cut the market for hay for tow animals.

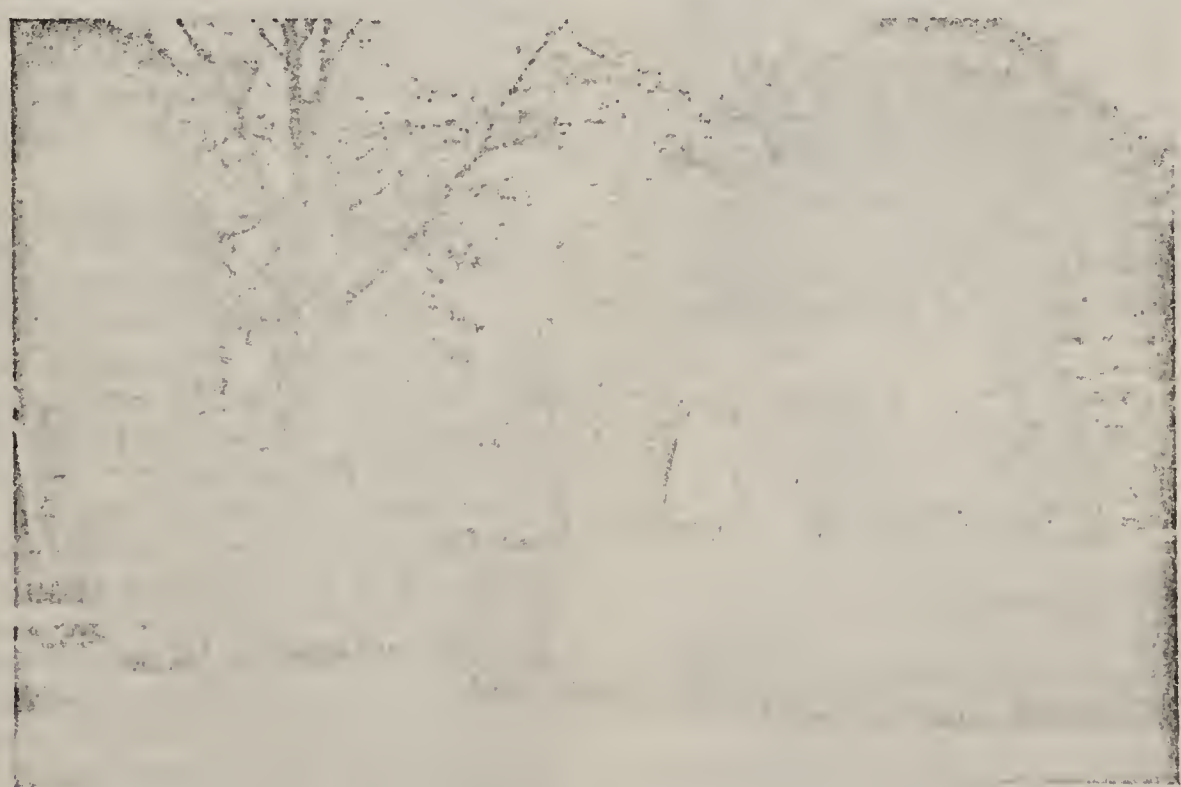
As time went on sheep numbers declined, bean acreage climbed and then declined, poultry numbers increased and dairy animals declined in numbers. Tree fruits declined, to be concentrated in relatively few large farms near Seneca Lake.

Early agricultural organizations swapped information. With transportation bringing in world and nation-wide competitive markets, farmers soon felt the need for additional scientific leadership provided by the Extension Services of land grant colleges such as Cornell. In Schuyler County this resulted in the Farm Bureau organization in 1917. Men like C. L. Frost, M. O. Disbrow, Frank Carney, Frank Waugh, C. E. Titus, Guy Caywood, Lee Bale, Walter Ganung, J. E. Sackett and E. C. Love gathered to plan improved farm programs. By 1918 they organized tractor demonstrations and worked for better roads. They held field tests and result demonstrations.

By 1920 cooperative seed purchasing was instigated and G.L.F. cooperative facilities encouraged.

1921 saw the farmers working on milk marketing by cooperatives, forming a herd testing association and resolving to urge construction of a building for use of county organizations, especially farm organizations.

In 1921 the Farm Bureau appointed a committee to receive funds for milk and other foods to send to a starving Europe, indicating production sufficient to share food with other less fortunate world citizens. Fun was not forgotten, for that same year the Bureau voted to send a baseball team to Cornell's Agricultural Field Day.



Reading Grange's Centennial Float depicted a good old fashioned husking bee. Only a picture in full color could do justice to this beautiful float by an enterprising Grange.

SHEEP SHEARING fifty years ago in Odessa was done by new mechanical hand powered shears owned and operated by John and "Sherm" Sterling. This father-son team did a lot of shearing. In their day there were some 30,000 sheep in Schuyler County, while in 1950 we had only 6,795.

—Photo from Jack Ash collection

The story was as a lad "Sherm" looked down a rifle barrel to see the bullet come out. The eye was blinded and his brain so affected his left side partially paralized. His left arm always hung limp and useless & he limped.

In 1922 there was a drive to get lime on the county's lands. That same year the Farm Bureau worked hard to get agriculture taught in Watkins Glen High School. (In 1948 the Extension Service had a survey which led to development of an agricultural course at Odessa, after some lapse without such teaching).

Occasionally less important matters seemed to come up, for in July 1922, the Farm Bureau committee discussed a communication from a J. Coryell in regards to permits for shooting robins.

The Agricultural Experiment Stations and Extension Service have kept the farm production upward in quality and labor efficiency. Yields per animal or per acre have mounted. Marketing has become of major importance this past decade with opening of fluid milk marketing outlets, a lamb marketing pool handling 8,391 head averaging $18 in 1953, and a Fruit Growers' Cooperative handing 1,700 tons of grapes for juice and 80 tons of cherries for freezing, and exploring marketing methods for peach growers. This latter employs 12 regular and 65 seasonal men. Dairy herd owners benefit from Dairy Herd Improvement (including owner-sampling) and the Artificial Breeding Cooperative.

Recent "action agencies" in the U.S.D.A., such as Soil Conservation and P.M.A. are used by county farmers to make necessary adjustments in a changing world.

The State and Federal Governments bought lands in Orange, Hector and Cayuta for forestry and grazing. This had effects on county population.

Some significant 1950 census figures for Schuyler County: At present there are 1,118 farms and a drop this century of 40% in acreage tilled. Contrasts in yields per acre are shown below:

	1854	1950
Hay	.9 Ton	1.75 Tons
Oats	20.1 Bu.	40 Bu.
Wheat	9.4 Bu.	26 Bu.
Corn silage	None	8.7 Tons
Corn grain	30 Bu.	64 Bu.

Dairy cows numbered 4,773 in 1950 compared with 7,676 in 1855. Milk production is nearly four times as great per cow in 1954 as a century ago.

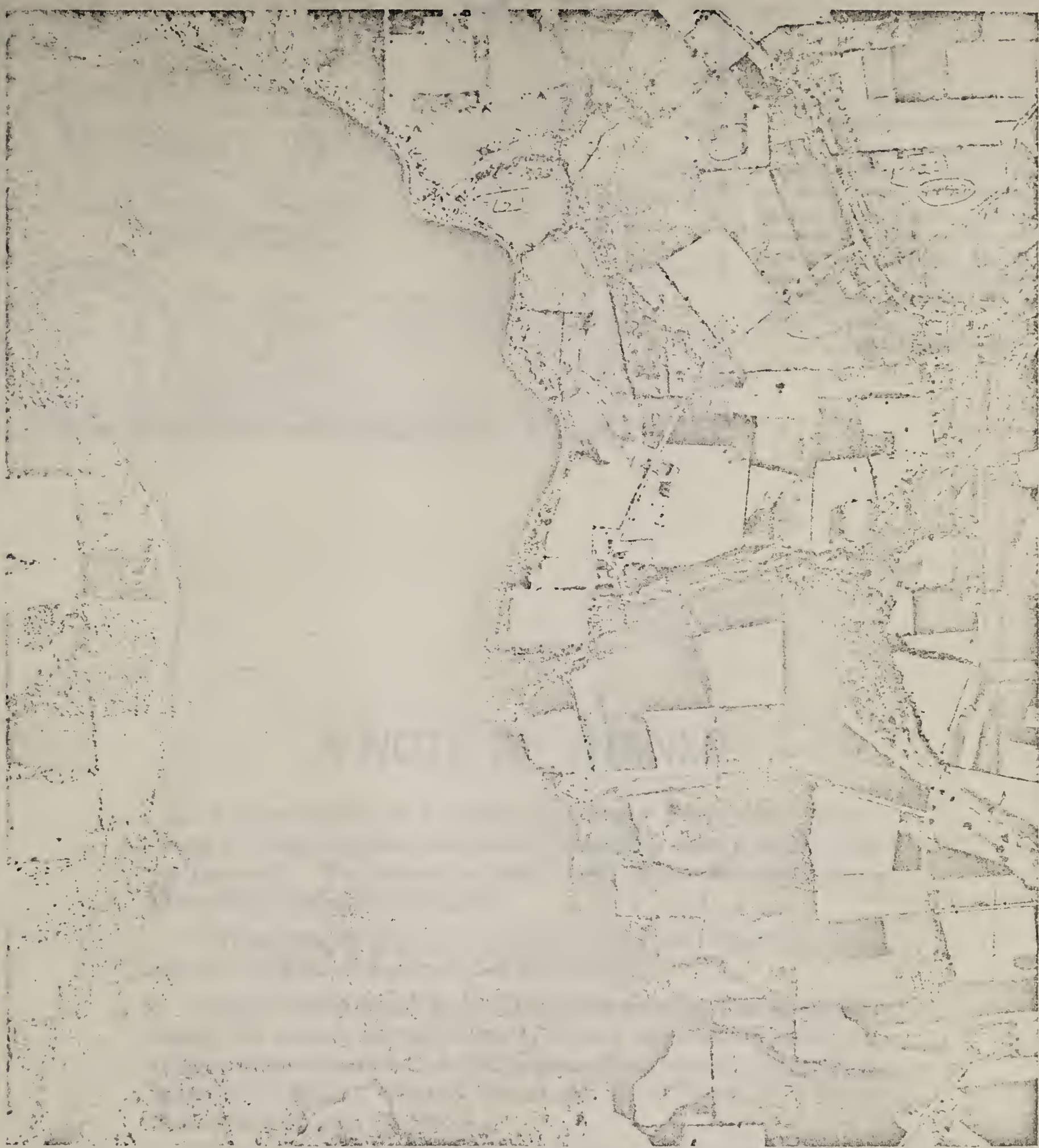
Sheep in 1855, 48,918; in 1950 only 6,795 but not declining in last six years.

Poultry numbers more than doubled in a century to 175,000 in 1950.

John Boyce's steam thrashing rig at Odessa was typical of mechanization which started decline in numbers of farm population, for fewer hands could turn out more food. Mechanization makes farming so expensive to get into that a young farmer has a problem to get started unless he inherits the family farm. This was about 1906.

—Photo from Jack Ash collection

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA Minor Seminary and Preparatory School. The Franciscan Friars of the Assumption Province converted the former Glen Springs hotel into a school in 1949. The initial enrollment was thirty-four students and the present enrollment is one hundred twenty-three. The first class was graduated in 1953.



AIR MAP OF TYRONE AND LAMOKA LAKE

This map is part of a complete 1938 air mapping used in Soil Conservation, PMA and other farm planning programs. Fields can be measured accurately, wet spots seen, types of cover and erosion results and dangers observed. One tax assessor found lands never in the tax rolls from air mapping. There are now more summer residents at the shores of the lakes than in the village and on farms of Tyrone township.

KEEPING THE HILLS FROM RUNNING AWAY

4-H Club youths learning to make diversion ditches under Soil Conservation Service expert at Conservation Training Camp, Cayuta. The Soil Conservation District now has nearly half the farms in Schuyler County as cooperators with plans developing to keep the farms productive for generations to come.

—State 4-H Club Office

A NOTE OF THANKS

The assembling of a century of County History has taken a "heap of doing" but the Centennial Committee feels it is vital that we remember "The means by which one's ancestors made both a living and a life upon the land."

We are deeply grateful to all those who have helped collecting, selecting and picturing history of the century.

Major contributions in time and effort have been made by Mrs. George M. Layton, Myron Bates, Mrs. Guy Caywood, Charles Harrington, Frank Severne, Irving Goodrich, Glen Mickel, Irving Davis, Mrs. David Bell, A. Weston Woodward, B. L. Piper, Miss Nancy Howell and Charles Haight.

Parade pictures were contributed by Mrs. Marjorie Bleiler and Mrs. Nelson Longstreet.

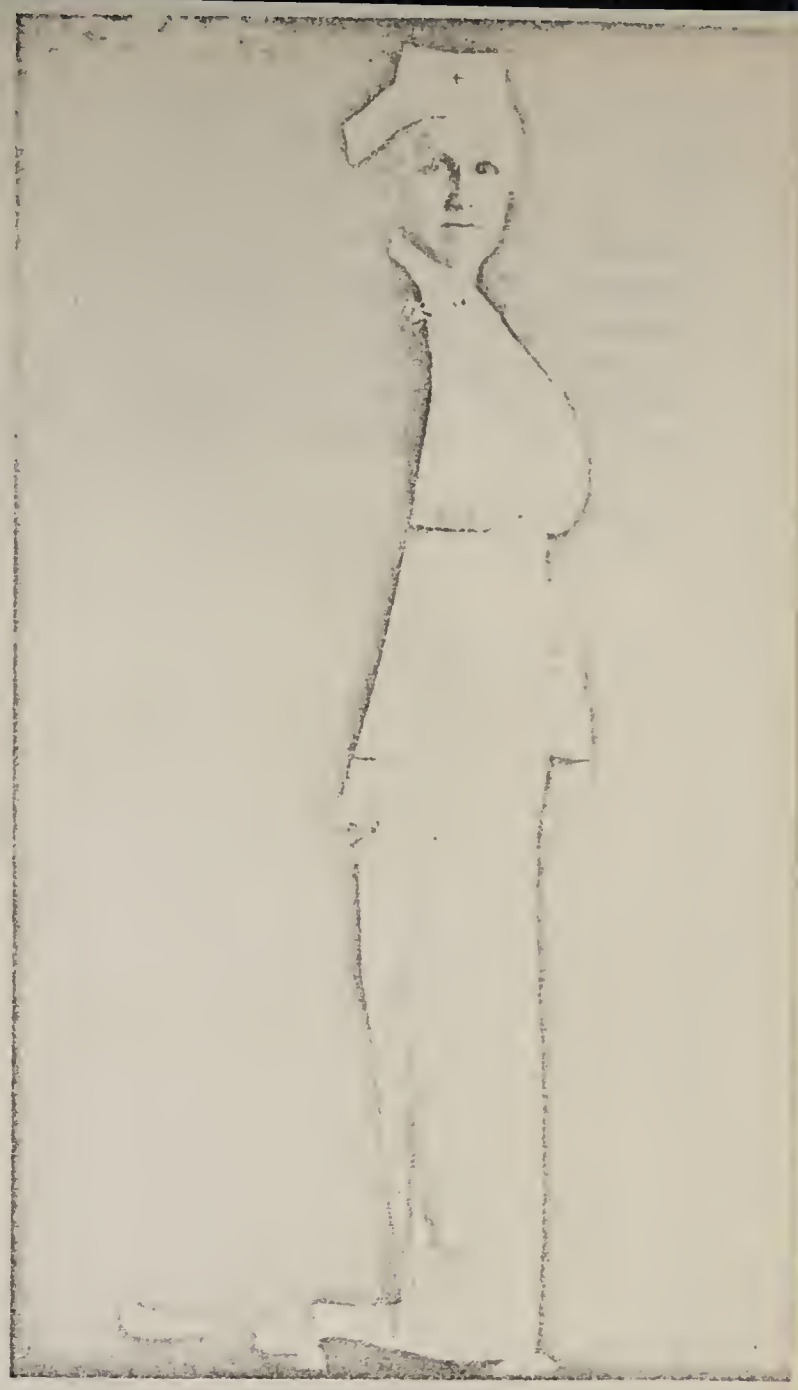
Jane A. Delano, Schuyler County's brilliant and dedicated nurse. In 1909 she was a member of the War Relief Board of the American Red Cross, Chairman of its National Committee of Red Cross Nursing Service; President of the Nurses' Associated Alumnae; President of the Army Nurse Corps; all Red Cross and Army nursing under her guidance.

Born March 12, 1862 at Townsend, she died at the American Base Hospital at Aaveny, France, April 15, 1919. She was buried with military honors in Arlington Cemetery, Washington, D. C.

A movement is on foot to have an American Stamp issued in her honor and she has been adjudged worthy of such honor by the National Red Cross. The centenary of her birth, 1962, has been suggested as the propitious time to urge such action by the Post Office Department.

Ten American Legion Posts have been named "Jane A. Delano"; also several nurses' homes.

—Photo from American Red Cross



DOCTORS – MEDICINE

Since blacktop roads and autos, doctors have tended to gather in the larger villages. There are fewer doctors but transportation permits more people to visit them. In 1894, there were 39 physicians; now in 1954, 12 in county.

In 1904, a girl who needed hospital surgery after an accident while horseback riding could be taken care of in this way, Dr. A. H. Jackson relates. "I would phone the railroad, if the regular train had gone through, I'd get a fast thru train stopped, would ride with the patient to Sayre and then return by train that same day." This took time. Our modern ambulances and first-aid crews and the founding of Shepard Relief Hospital in 1920 (renamed Schuyler Hospital in 1953) saves travel, life and a doctor's time.

Pioneering in nursing service was a Montour Falls woman, Jane A. Delano who from 1910-17 established the American Red Cross Home Nursing Service and wrote the first text book. She died still serving in 1919 while in France.

Appalling infant and maternal death rates evident in our cemeteries could not be materially reduced until the studies of Pasteur and Lister had been widespread. Even then until immunization methods were developed at the turn into the 20th century diphtheria and smallpox could be stopped only by isolation. Then in the 2nd quarter of the 20th century the antibiotics were developed and pneumonia, a major cause of deaths was under control. As this is written in August 1954 we hope medical science has found an effective control of infantile paralysis—so damaging in 1953 locally. Millions of dollars are being spent to learn to control cancer. Health insurance and hospital plans such as Blue Cross and Blue Shield have been developed in the last decade to enable families to save for medical services as needed. Radio and television, motion picture and color photography are being used both in preventive medicine, general health education and medical schools.

BETHSAIDA SANITARIUM at Havana where D. C. Clawson offered a wide assortment of cures and rests. These spas were combination hotels and medical centers, making it almost agreeable to be ailing. Clawson Boulevard starting up Odessa Hill was the site for this building.

—Photo from the Montour Library

SAFETY

Fire companies are not new but like doctors they needed to be adequately equipped. During most of this century Watkins Glen, Montour Falls and Odessa have had fire companies on a volunteer basis and worked to get hand pumpers to replace buckets, horse and motorized equipment to replace hand equipment. The dread days when a fire meant certain complete destruction of a large block are past. Yet rural fire losses remain high and since World War II trained rural fire departments well equipped with trucks and equipment have come into being in Hector, Burdett, Mecklenburg, Tyrone, Beaver Dams and Monterey. Due to these organizations, insurance rates have been maintained at a reasonable figure despite rising values of property. These fire companies also do yeoman's service in erecting Christmas decorations, providing units for parades, and sponsoring educational courses.

HOW EARLY COUNTY BOUNDARIES SHIFTED

Montgomery County originally included most of the unsettled area west of Albany and north to the Canadian border.

In 1791, the land from the Delaware River to the Pre-Emption Line 6 miles west of Watkins Glen and from the head of Seneca Lake to the Pennsylvania Line became Tioga County.

In 1806 Broome County taken from east end of Tioga and in 1836 Chemung County from west end.

In 1854 townships of Cayuta, Catharine and Dix were taken from Chemung, towns of Orange, Tyrone and Reading from Steuben and Hector from Tompkins. In 1860 the town of Montour was taken from Catharine to make our 8 towns.

THE COUNTY COURT HOUSE AND OFFICE BUILDING — The office building was completed in 1952. This picture was taken to show the county's best to those celebrating the opening of a section of the New York State Thruway.

—Woodward Studio

THE COURT HOUSE at Watkins Glen has been a landmark for 97 years. For a time, pending the county seat contest, its future hung in the balance. In 1935 floods and logs entered its doors, but it has braved both storms. Here plans for the Centennial were begun.

OF THIS AND THAT THROUGH THE YEARS

—General John E. Mulford was instigator of Elmira & Seneca Lake Railway Company—the trolleys.

—Havana-born was David B. Hill, Lt. Gov. of New York State, 1885-92.

—The Parish House at Montour built as Clerk's Office has been included in outstanding architecture of New York State in the Bevier Memorial Building in Rochester.

—George Mills, a Havana resident who died in December 1858 at the age of 93, had without changing his home lived in Montgomery County for 1 year, Tioga County for 43 years, Chemung for 18 years and died in Schuyler County.

—Pine Grove Church now gone began as a Methodist Class in 1830, built a Presbyterian Church in 1848, which became a Methodist Church in 1858, but switched to Presbyterian again in '74. Sold in 1934. This church sent a missionary to Persia and started nation-wide discussion and debate when they attempted to ordain Lillian Chapman to ministry.

—1867, a record barge-load of coal (231 tons) recorded at Chemung Canal.

—1864 Duplex Elliptical-Spring Hoop Skirts sold locally. They could be contracted into small space.

—1864 announcement that income tax rate would be 5% of any income above $600.00.

—1864 clothing scarce so robberies from clothes lines were reported. Buffalo robes were available however.

—New York State population doubled 1850 to 1900 and again doubled 1900 to 1950.

—1851 Amelia Bloomer and Susan B. Anthony had as theme song:

Sound the loud timbrel o'er Erie's broad sea
The skirts will be shortened, our women be free.

—Fruit drying used to be a major industry in Odessa and Tyrone among other places in 1860.

—In 1909, local papers noted 26 football deaths double the number in 1907.

—Shepard Hospital started with 8 beds, a small operating room and a kitchen. Now 50 beds.

—Glenwood Cemetery started in 1858.

—Cayuta had county's earliest resident minister, Elder David Jaynes 1799. Cayuta Free Church begun in 1859.

—Dix had the only town poor house with 7 adults and 2 juvenile "customers."

—Havana and Watkins "county" buildings each cost about $24,000.

—Altay's present Baptist Church building dates from 1842. Also Tyrone's Methodist Church. Newest is Weston Presbyterian Chapel 1938.

(Continued on page 36)

THE ORIGINAL COUNTY COURT HOUSE now Montour Village Hall in 1954 resounds to laughter of some 50 to 75 Teen Towners playing basketball, dancing, and learning the art of self government. This group of brick buildings in the civic center of Montour Falls is often admired by artists and architects.

—R. O. Bale photo

Built by Charles Cook. Bricks made nearby.

SERVANTS WITH A SMILE

"Larry" Morgan, Joe Hoffman and Alfred Woodward.

These three gentlemen are examples of the fine public office holders Schuyler County has enjoyed. Larry Morgan greeted nearly every citizen by name. He was County Clerk for 20 years before he died in 1953. Joseph Hoffman is the present chairman of the Board of Supervisors and a Catharine farmer. Mr. Woodward was for years chairman and a leading hardware storekeeper. He died in 1950. This picture was taken on one of their trips to solve a county problem in "spare" time.

—William Kelly collection

ASSEMBLYMAN H. H. GRAHAM OF BEAVER DAMS looks over the family car. Henry Ford set rural folk on the road to equal living with urbanites. With a good home, a good wife and family and friends, what more could a man want when a car was added? This picture is of 1910 vintage.

—Photo from Ira Lafever

OF THIS AND THAT THROUGH THE YEARS

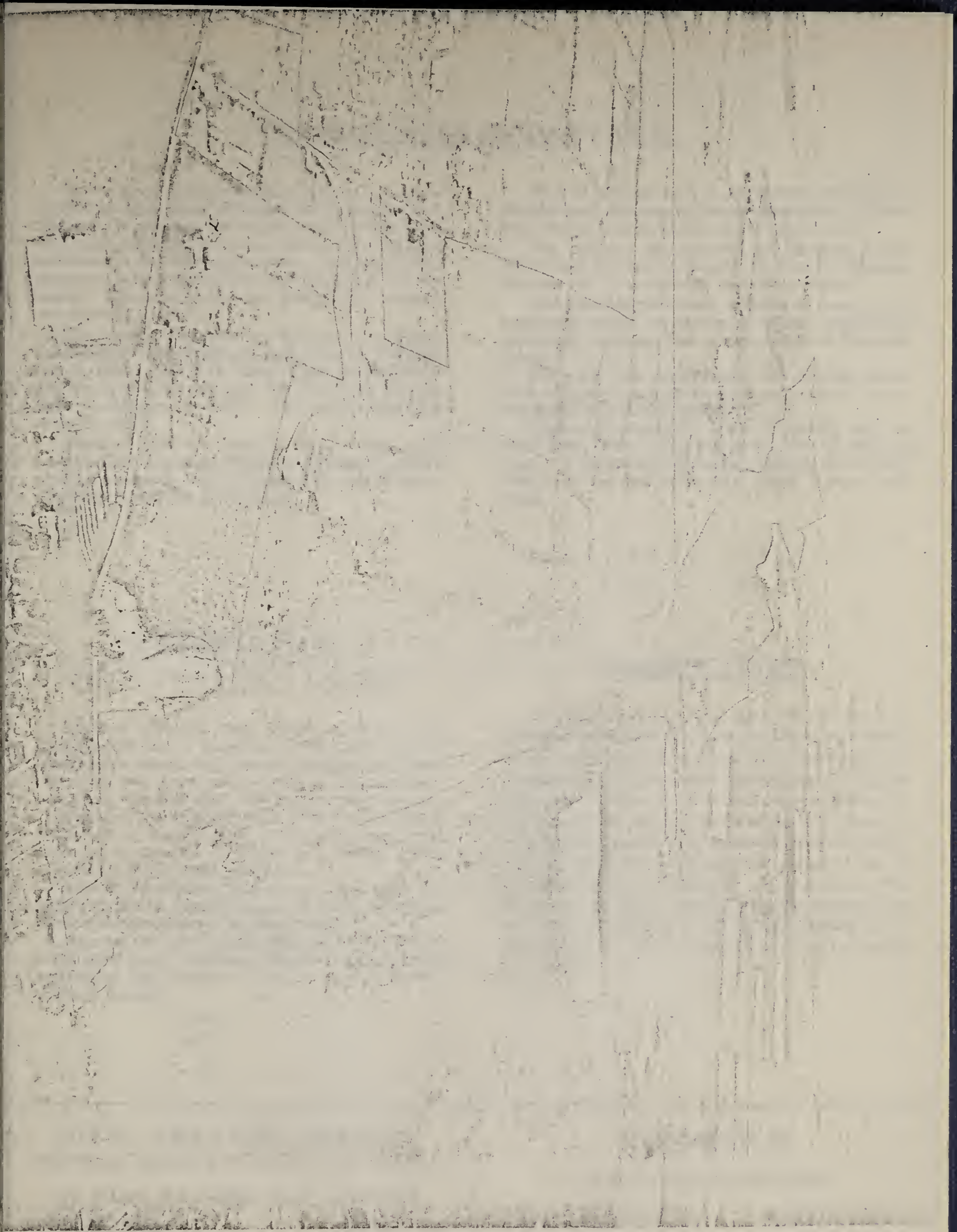
(Continued from page 34)

—Charles Cook had a design made for a Queen Catharine Memorial.
—Perry City has our only Friends Church now also a community church.
—The railroad changed Peach Orchard to Hector.
—Orange was named for county in New Jersey from which many inhabitants came.
—Odessa C. S. transportation costs $45,000 per year.
—General Kernan's home in Tyrone was the early center of Catholic worship. His son Francis was a U. S. Senator and on New York State Board of Regents 1870-92. One daughter married George Quin who started Watkins Catholic Congregation, now St. Mary's.
—No Chamber of Commerce Either! Editorial in Havana Journal in 1855. "We say that our village of Havana contains a more expensive District School House, a better and more expensive hotel, more expensive and better-finished buildings for mechanical purposes, better market for all produce, more wealth and that more equally distributed, more and truer Whigs, few Know Nothings and more Know Some Things than any village of 1300 inhabitants in Western New York."

WORLD NEWS — 1854

Problems reported by steamer and mail were in 1854 much like those a century later. Some newsworthy events of 1854:

—A new party was formed, the Republican Party, on the Kansas Nebraska Act and slave issue.
—United States signed with Japan a treaty of peace, amity and commerce opening ports following Commodore Perry's visit.
—The Ostend Manifesto offered Spain $120 million for Cuba or U. S. threatened to take it by force.
—The National debt was $42,242,222.
—The San Francisco mint was first opened.
—The United States in 1854 had 48 steamboat accidents with loss of 587 people; 193 railroad accidents killing 186.
—Tennyson's "Charge of the Light Brigade" was written to commemorate the British fight with Russia in Crimean War over expansion of Russia in Turkey.
—Stephen Foster published "Jeannie with the Light Brown Hair."
—Public libraries were opened in New York City and Boston.
—First railroad suspension bridge was opened at Niagara Falls.
—Geo. Eastman (inventor of popular photography) was born.
—Cholera took 900 lives in Chicago, 650 in Brooklyn.



ATKINS GLEN STATE PARK LOOKING WEST--1927. The Park is now in the process of extending its boundaries in the wester
llow) area for flood and gravel control purposes. In the left foreground is now a tent-camping area often holding 350 campers over
ies are on the north (right) brink of the Glen. Reading, Tyrone, Dix and Orange farms extend in the distance. The Glen Springs h
dua) is at far right. The Park is now 91 years old, 48 years as state owned.

—Picture by Robinson of Finger Lakes Park Comm

THE SCHUYLER COUNTY SEAL

On the cover of our centennial booklet is a reproduction by Miss Mary Robinson of the county seal. The early founders of the county were business men very much interested in transportation and recognized immediately the vital importance of railroad transportation to the agriculture and industries of the county. Hence when the seal was made a railroad was depicted on it.

The present Pennsylvania Railroad was called Canandaigua and Chemung and reached Watkins first in 1850. The Fall Brook Railroad owned by the Magee Family and now the New York Central came to Watkins in 1877. The Lehigh Railroad came in 1890.

When in 1892 the railroads ended stages, mail from Havana (Montour Falls) to Odessa (3 miles) went for a time by way of Canandaigua and Geneva, then back to Odessa (100 miles).

Typical railroad fares in 1888 on the New York Central were Corning to Beaver Dams 39c, to Watkins 45c, to Geneva $1.20, and to Lyons $1.65.

The railroads also replaced the Chemung Canal which had 44 locks each with 10 foot lift between Havana and "The Summit" near Pine Valley.

The railroads now carry millions of tons of coal and heavy goods, employ many county people and are substantial taxpayers in most towns of Schuyler County.

For some time the railroads also brought thousands of people to Watkins Glen on excursions or to the hotels and health resorts.

Gradually automobile traffic increased until in 1917 State Police were organized (237 of them at first). They traveled on horses entirely for a time. Now there are over 1,000 State Police in New York State.

CUTTING FLAG ON CATHARINE MARSH

Schuyler County's flag cutting enterprise on Catharine Marsh is little known but has been of considerable extent and interest through the years. Up to 50 men have been employed annually from September through May, the best harvest season.

Selecting the longest canes and leaves and cutting them with a short-bladed, long-handled knife, the workmen bundle these and ship to cooperage plants in different parts of the country.

The 24 to 34 inch leaves are taken from the stalk and placed between staves and head pieces to caluk barrels and casks against leakage.

Burning the marshlands makes for better quality and higher yield. Catharine Marsh flag has earned acclaim for high quality. Many carloads have been shipped annually.

SANTA LIVES

On December 21, 1949, John W. Crawford of Montour Falls died of a heart attack as he dressed in his bright red suit and flowing white beard preparatory to his appearance as Santa Claus at Watkins Glen High School. Over 40 years ago he started by being Santa for his son and soon became Santa to all Schuyler County. His wondrous love and understanding of youth and older folk endeared him to thousands of county residents. A memorial to him is the new children's ward at Schuyler Hospital but his greatest memorial is in the lives and spirits of his fellowmen. May his spirit live on in our county and world.

THE MEMORIAL LIBRARY
MONTOUR FALLS

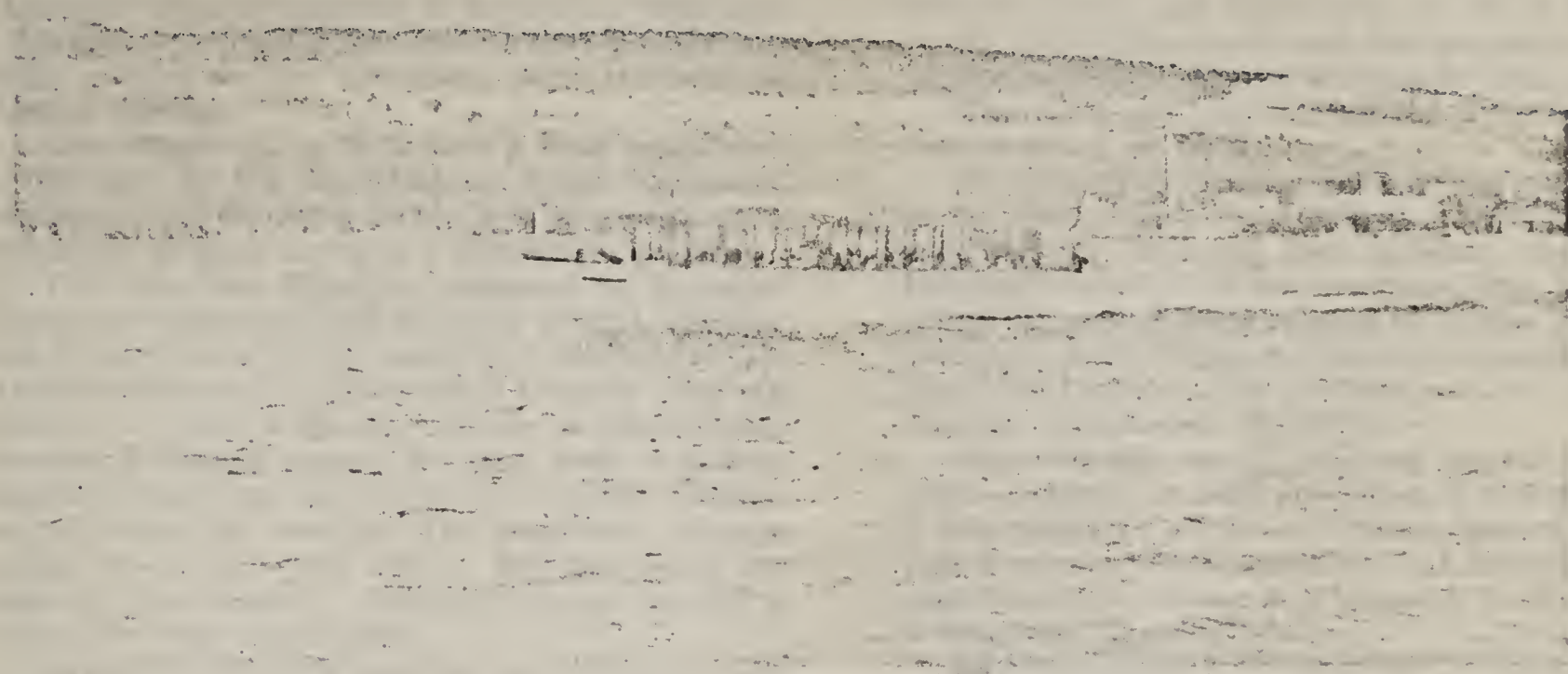
Portrait above the mantle is George Mills, the first white settler of Havana. Oval framed portrait is of Jesse C. Woodhull, the donor of the Fanton Bank Building which he remodeled in 1904 to house the young library adequately. The library has a unique local museum, and through the efforts of Librarian Mrs. George Layton, Town Historian Myron Bates, and a committee of loyal supporters serves the present day needs admirably.

—Montour Memorial Library

SWARTWOOD'S GENERAL
STORE, CAYUTA

In the era when Old Dobbin competed with Henry Ford. Supervisor Franklin Eaton ran this store for several years. No paved roads in 1909!

—Photo, Mrs. Harry Dean, Alpine



THE STROLLER — CAPTAIN PALMER'S BOAT

Successor to a long line of sloops, steamers and other craft which have shown the beauties of Seneca's shores to countless travelers. Oil still comes through the Erie Canal and down the lake to storage facilities on the far eastern shore. Watkins Salt plant is at the right.

—William Kelly collection

Concluding the parade for the 1954 Centennial was the hearse owned by Elmo M. Royce and driven by Lawrence Personius and George Watkins.

RECREATION AND LEISURE

The new fangled soda fountains of Havana and Watkins were well patronized in 1857 but with excellent crackers to be bought at 6c a pound in 1859, we believe cracker barrel sessions were still popular.

M. Ells opened Watkins Glen to the public in 1863. Brass or cornet bands formed in major villages. P. T. Barnum who had lectured at Peoples College in 1865 started his "Greatest Show on Earth" in 1871.

Following an intensive campaign, McClures (Havana) Glen was opened in September 1868 with a Masonic-sponsored picnic said to have brought out 5,000 people at 25c admission, with proceeds to Peoples College.

John Magee Jr. in 1872 built 9 trout ponds and a hatchery on the Mecklenburg Road, Catharine, costing several thousand dollars and antedating state assistance to make the area a fisherman's paradise.

The first five Granges organized in Schuyler County were Highland and Schuyler (1873), Reading and Olive Branch (1874) and North Hector (1875). These thrived and an additional 9 Granges bring the units to 14 with a healthy growth in membership. Searsburg Grange started in 1885 with 9 charter members, now has 202 members; Highland Grange started with 19, now has 126 members. Grange sponsored picnics drew 400 to 500 people at the close of the century. Reading Grange started a library for their community.

In the 80's and 90's bicycling was mighty popular with tandems and solid tire bikes making extensive trips. Bikes with lights and horns and improved brakes are mighty popular today among the teen-agers.

Choral Unions and Singing Societies were run by enthusiastic leaders in 1875, two years before Edison invented the phonograph; and if you were in bad voice, you could by then read the Ladies Home Journal or the old humorous Life magazine. As early as 1884 Odessa folks could enjoy the telephone too.

In 1879, Watkins had 6 hotels and most every town had a hotel or tavern. Dr. Leffingwell opened the Glen Springs Sanitarium (formerly the Magnetic Sulphur Spring House) in 1889. Here society could rest their minds and bodies from the toil of business.

By 1896 folks could read the spectacular news-papers being published by William Randolph Hearst.

The novel was popular, but the dime novel was even more so, we read.

In early 1904 Montour Library was well housed in the former Hull Fanton Bank. Jesse Woodhull who back in 1866 had been secretary of the new Havana Baseball Club returned from New York City where he made a small fortune at lumber importing and gave the building and funds to remodel it as a Memorial Library. One provision was that a historic museum be included. It still is.

The Glorious 4th of July was always a big occasion. Odessa in 1909 fired 13 guns at sunrise, had 2 ball games, an oration, a tub race, greased pig and pole contests, music, afternoon and evening dances and fireworks. Odessa still observes the Fourth but without the 13 guns.

Motion pictures are mentioned as coming to the county as early as 1910—silent, then color, then talkies and all the refinements and 3 dimensions. Until television arrived in 1952, the weekly movie was about as important as a weekly paper.

By 1910 college football was in the papers and automobiles were available. Dr. Jackson of Odessa found his 1908 open Ford and his 1910 electrification job mighty nice innovations and soon everyone had an automobile as a family objective.

War days brought the excitement of parades and knitting for the soldiers in 1915-19. And then came the era of bootlegging, flappers and supposed prosperity and normalcy. Golf and tennis were favored as sports for those with money. Basketball grew in popularity as a winter sport.

The Finger Lakes Association was formed in Auburn with Edward C. Cooper as its first secretary in 1919. This promoted the Finger Lakes as tourist and businessman's mecca.

Prosperity vanished with the Stock Market Crash of 1929 and a great depression set in. Many were out of work and many lost most of their life savings. This county tightened its belt and, finding itself dangerously in debt, worked to better itself.

A stranded deer in Watkins Glen reported in the press brought record crowds and nation-wide publicity over Labor Day 1933. Mr. Magee's beautiful home, presented to the village, was scheduled to be a home for delinquent children but instead a decade later became a Youth Hostel and conference center. Fourteen thousand acres of idle farm land were bought up by the state for reforestation. Four Civilian Conservation Camps (Watkins, Burdett, Monterey and Cayuta) brought nearly 1,000 young men to improve the woodlands and parks of the county.

School sports were augmented.

Horse racing continued popular until the second World War when corrals emphasizing riding grew rapidly hereabouts.

Youth organizations such as Boy Scouts, 4-H Clubs, Girl Scouts and Teen-Age groups have proven themselves valuable in the past 30 years.

We have become amazingly organized of late. Lodges, Veterans' groups, churches, hospital, firemen and libraries, auxiliaries, fire companies, hobby groups for antiques, photography, archery, rod and rifle, aeronautics, boating, fishing, hunting, bingo playing, community service, professional improvement all have their officers and meetings. An active man or woman may easily get involved in 15 to 25 of these organizations.

Alcoholics Anonymous has taken over part of the Temperance Society work.

One of the most striking changes in the past 56 years has been the growth of summer homes and colonies. In 1890 practically no lakeside cottages existed. Ninety percent of them have been built in 30 years until in Tyrone Township for example, the lakeside summer population more than doubles the winter population. Hotels have decreased in number. In their place are cabins and motels enough to accommodate some 1,000 tourists per night.

In the past decade we have seen still further growth in number of cars for pleasure, and introduction of television with astounding speed. We have had road racing in the Annual Grand Prix events at Watkins Glen, a National Archery Meet held at the State Park, great increase in youth camping and youth commission programs for village recreation under local and state aid, and a crowd of fishermen each spring on Catharine Creek.

Square dances and good polkas are now the best-liked dances in 1954. Round dancing currently is out of favor.

HAVANA GLEN has early spring visitors at its pools to catch trout. Later picnics and swimming parties and a summer playground program keep the Glen a very lively place. This Glen is village-owned and has one of the best equipped playgrounds in the county.

—Symes Studio

"RAINBOW FALLS" by James Hope, noted and talented artist of Watkins. A native of Scotland, he came when a boy to Canada with his father, having lost his mother. They walked to Vermont. There while apprenticing to a wheelwright, he was injured and bedridden for some time. While thus handicapped he tried painting—first a self portrait which had such merit he soon received orders for portraits. Then he shifted to landscapes. During the Civil War he visited the battlegrounds and painted battle scenes which were commended by military officials. He came to Watkins in 1870, drawn by the hills and glens he could portray. He erected a home and studio in the Glen at Watkins. His paintings were given places of honor at the 1901 Pan-American Exposition. Most of his painting was done out of doors rather than in a studio. This picture is now in the Hope Studio at Watkins Glen. A faint line across the painting at the base of the falls marks high water line during the 1935 flood.

—Photo by Tony Ferry

WATKINS GLEN'S MOST FAMOUS DEER

Driven by dogs to a ledge near the entrance of the Glen and trapped there by fright. Viewed by thousands of visitors who learned of its plight through a news story by Arthur Richards. Remained there for 12 days, from August 26 to September 8, 1933, and during that time is said to have brought to the Park nearly as many visitors as attended the New York State Fair.

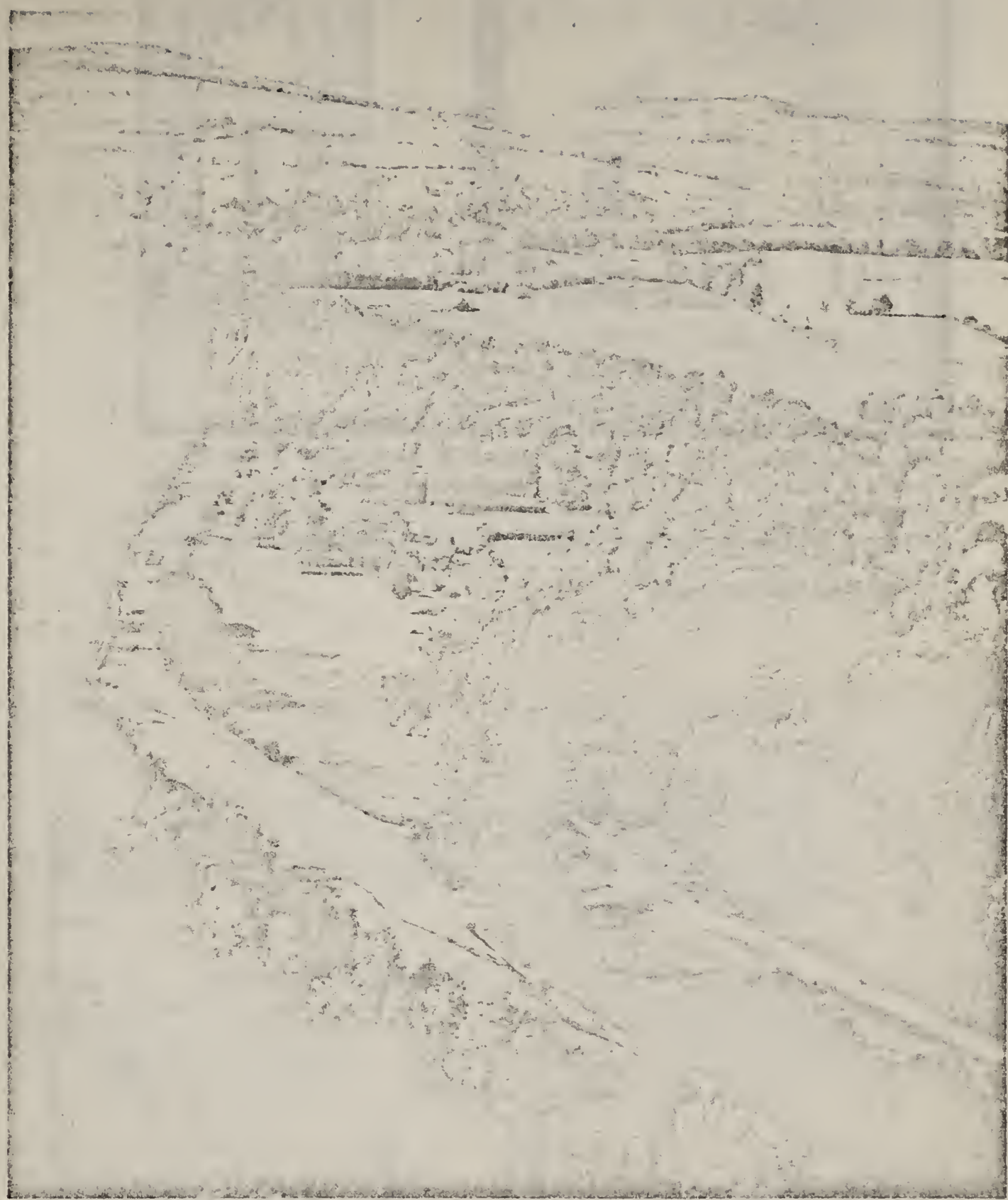
—Picture by George Kellogg, from Montour Falls Library

WATKINS GLEN CENTRAL SCHOOL'S THREE BANDS train over 100 students annually. Here Raymond Bailey, their conductor, leads the Senior Band in the Centennial Parade. Odessa Central School's Band also played a stirring part in the parade. Our county folk get to know the thrill of playing in groups at an early age these days.

WATKINS GLEN in winter becomes a fascinating exhibit of ice sculpture. Icicles 50 feet long hang from the cliffs.

—Symes Studio

Steve Matwiejow and Leon DeCamp of Weston with old time harvesting tools represent the Grange and Farm Bureau, leading the farm section of the Centennial Parade.



HIDDEN VALLEY

In this White's Hollow section of Watkins Glen State Park an Indian settlement once stood. During the depression of the thirties, one of four county Civilian Conservation Corps camps was built here. They picked up after the flood of '35 and put in many park and forest improvements. Now over 1,000 young people camp in Hidden Valley 4-H Camp each summer. The hill on the right horizon is Schuyler's highest (2080 ft), and has a fire observation tower to protect county woodland.

—Symes aerophoto

BEAVER DAMS SCHOOL, one of the relatively few two-room school houses still open. As a one-room school it has registered as high as 71 pupils in a year—with the older ones attending in winter months, the younger people in warmer months when strong farm hands were needed. Aprons were common school attire for girls in the early 20th century.

—Photo from Mrs. Leon Hall

THE EUREKA BASEBALL CLUB at Havana in their snappy uniforms pose before a contest. Our national game was played in pastures or school grounds and was very popular. This picture was taken not long after the Civil War. Now "small fry", twilight and girls' teams are active in most sizeable villages. World Series days are nearly national holidays with every radio and television tuned to the "World Series" stations.

—Montour Library collection

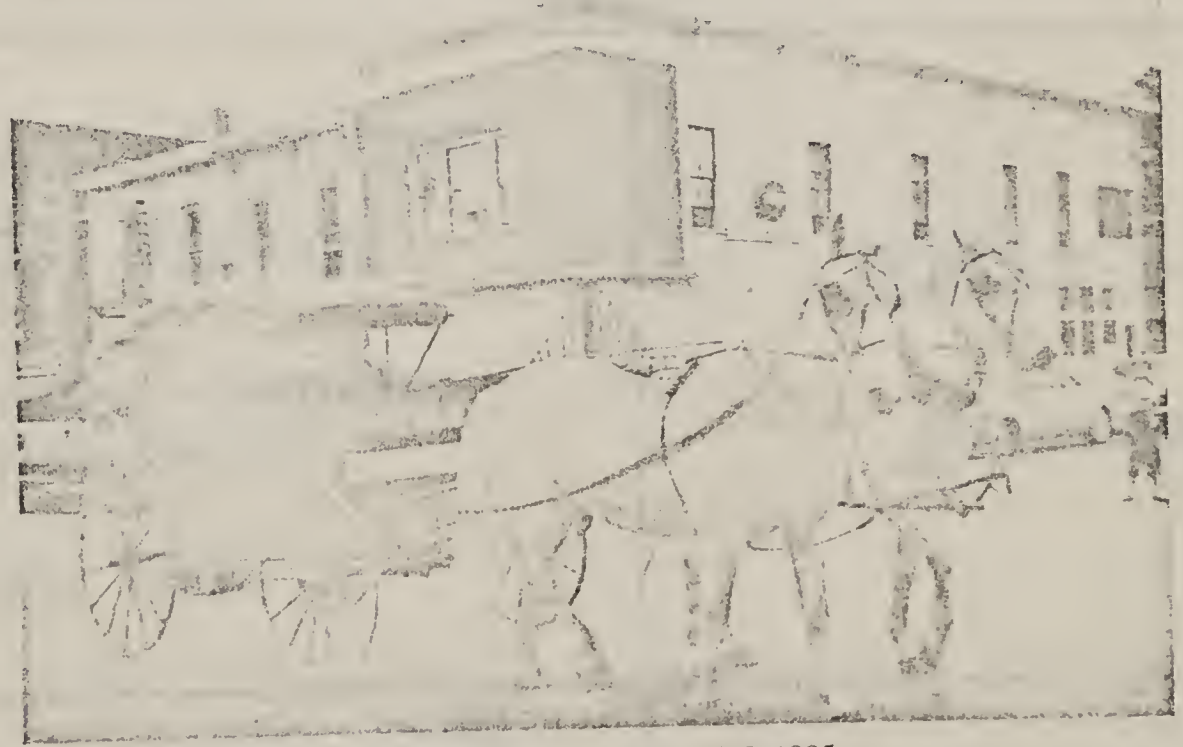
BURDETT VILLAGE looking north. Just around the bend to the right was the mill pond. Village stores with their boxes to sit on, railing for adequate hitch-up, stone paving for pedestrians to keep out of the road mire and a boy with a bicycle probably down after the mail. In this village stands the Presbyterian Church with a church bell dating to 1788. This bell traveled from Malagna, Spain to New York City, up the Hudson River, through the Erie Canal and down Seneca Lake to Glen Eldridge, thence by ox team to this street to be rung on July 4, 1838.

VALOIS CASTLE built at North Hector in the late 19th century by a wealthy man Count Valois, of French origin. He had it furnished with imported items from French royal households. This show place later became a public hotel and is now burned. North Hector was renamed Valois in his memory.

—Picture from Glen Mickel

HOTEL VILLA, NORTH HECTOR. Shore hotels preceded summer cottages in popularity. Steamers and trains brought hundreds to such spots. The early Fords chugged up the steep hill to the village churches and stores on the Lake Road. This still stands as a private residence.

—Photo from Glen Mickel



GOING TO CHURCH IN 1885

The Howells' surrey and team in Centennial Parade was driven by Sebring Howell with Mrs. Ruth Caywood, Rhoda, Mary and Nancy Howell as the family. It took three hours to drive from Tyrone to Watkins Glen on Centennial Day.

CHEQUAGA FALLS, MONTOUR FALLS

Sketched and photographed since Louis Philippe of France visited them in 1797, are of rare beauty, tumbling 156 feet almost into the main village street.

Red Jacket, the Seneca Indian orator, practiced his war whoops against their "roaring waters", the Indian term being Sheoquagah. The bridge is a fine example of the skill and artistry of Montour's Seneca Engineering Co.

—Photo, Symes Studio

SPEED COMES TO WATKINS GLEN

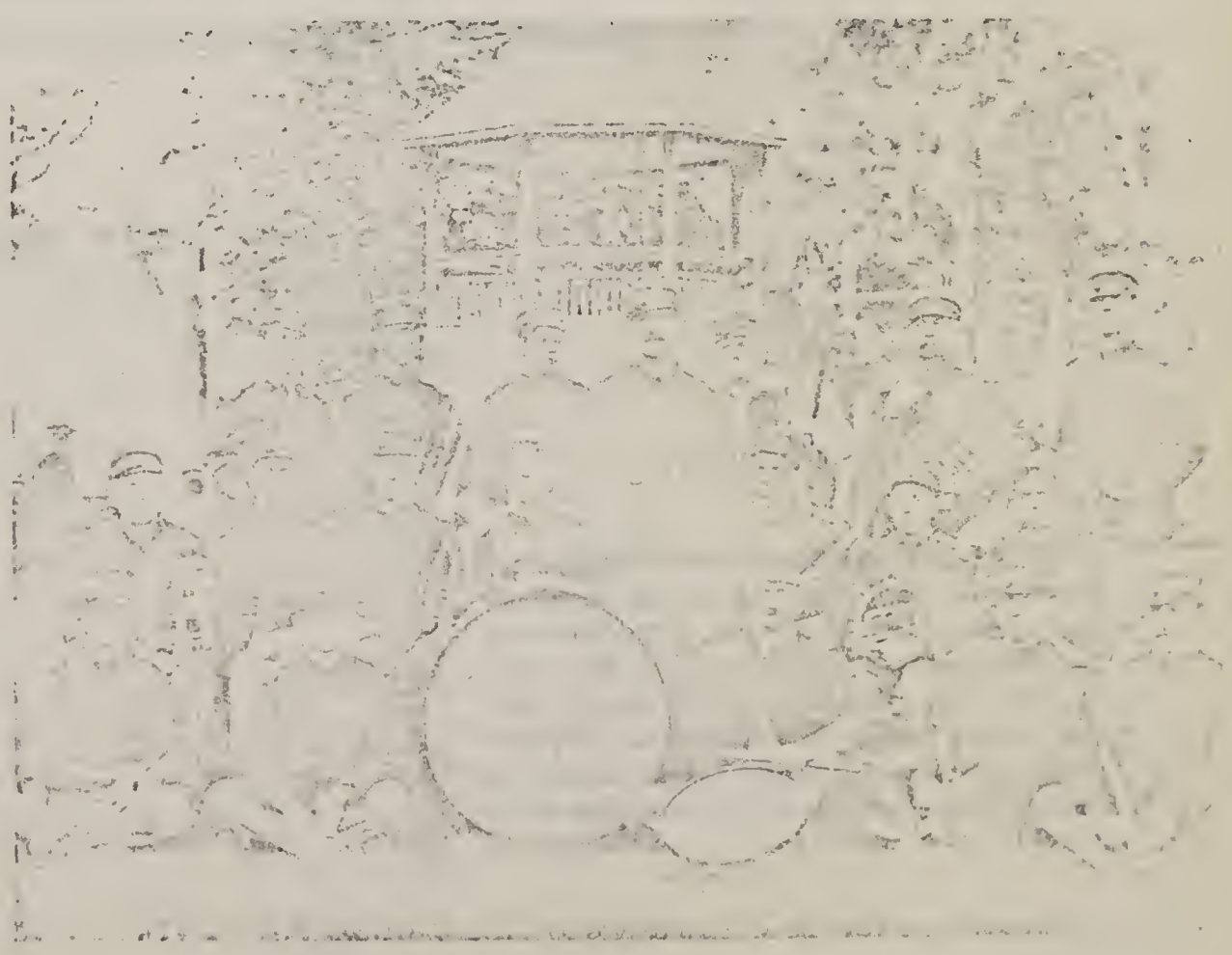
The Grand Prix auto races brought such crowds, the races had to be taken up in the country to find room for them. These road races were started in 1948 and for five years were run up the Townsend Road, through White's Hollow and back around the Clute homestead to the court house—6 miles and better at an average of better than 70 miles per hour. The course is now on the Town of Dix highways especially prepared for the purpose.

—William Kelly collection

SENECA GIVES UP TO OLD MAN WINTER

Occasionally, as in 1912, when the mercury registered 32° below in Odessa this thing happens. Usually the depth and volume keeps the lake cold but unfrozen. The long skirts must have been some sails for the lady skaters!

—Photo, William Kelly

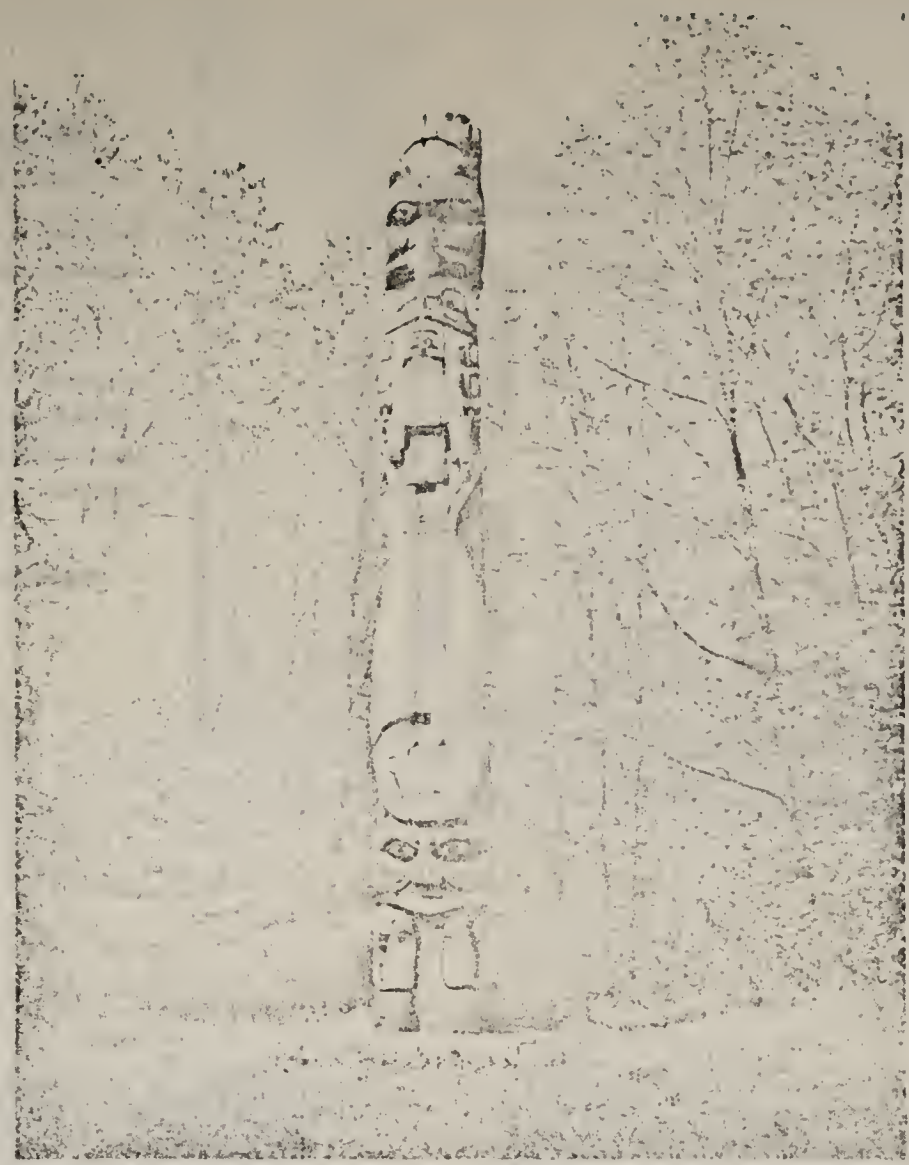


ISLEY'S BAND at Watkins had been playing for several years when this picture was taken at the turn of the century.

STANDING, l to r: Arthur Peck, Mike Ryan, Dyke Weaver, Walt Isley, John Vincent, Charles Saterlee, Louis Peck.

MIDDLE ROW, l to r: Capt. Harding, Arthur Pangborn, Lionel Saterlee, Byron Boodle, Garrett Johnson, Ray Saterlee, Edward Chase.

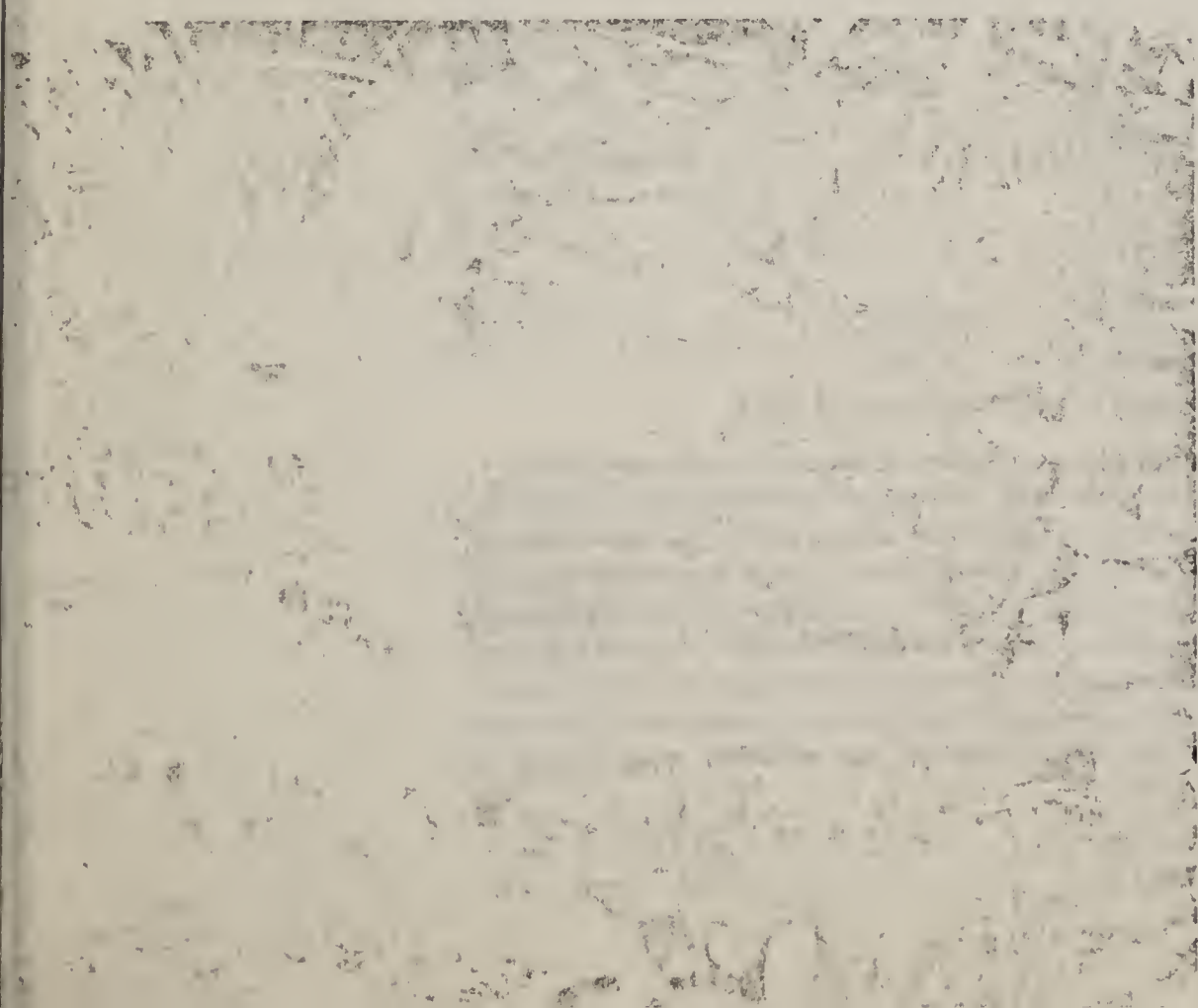
FRONT ROW, l to r: Burr Hendrickson, William Gates, George Thompson, Howard Peck, Lewis Haight.



THE TOTEM POLE—ARNOT FOREST CAMP, CAYUTA

This pole, brought from British Columbia in 1898, has seen Cornell Campus, Civilian Conservation Corps, German Prisoners of War. Professor Fernow brought it to New York. Here at Arnot are trained boys and teachers in conservation, forestry and wildlife management each summer. This forest land is owned by Cornell University.

—Photo by State Conservation Camp, Cornell University



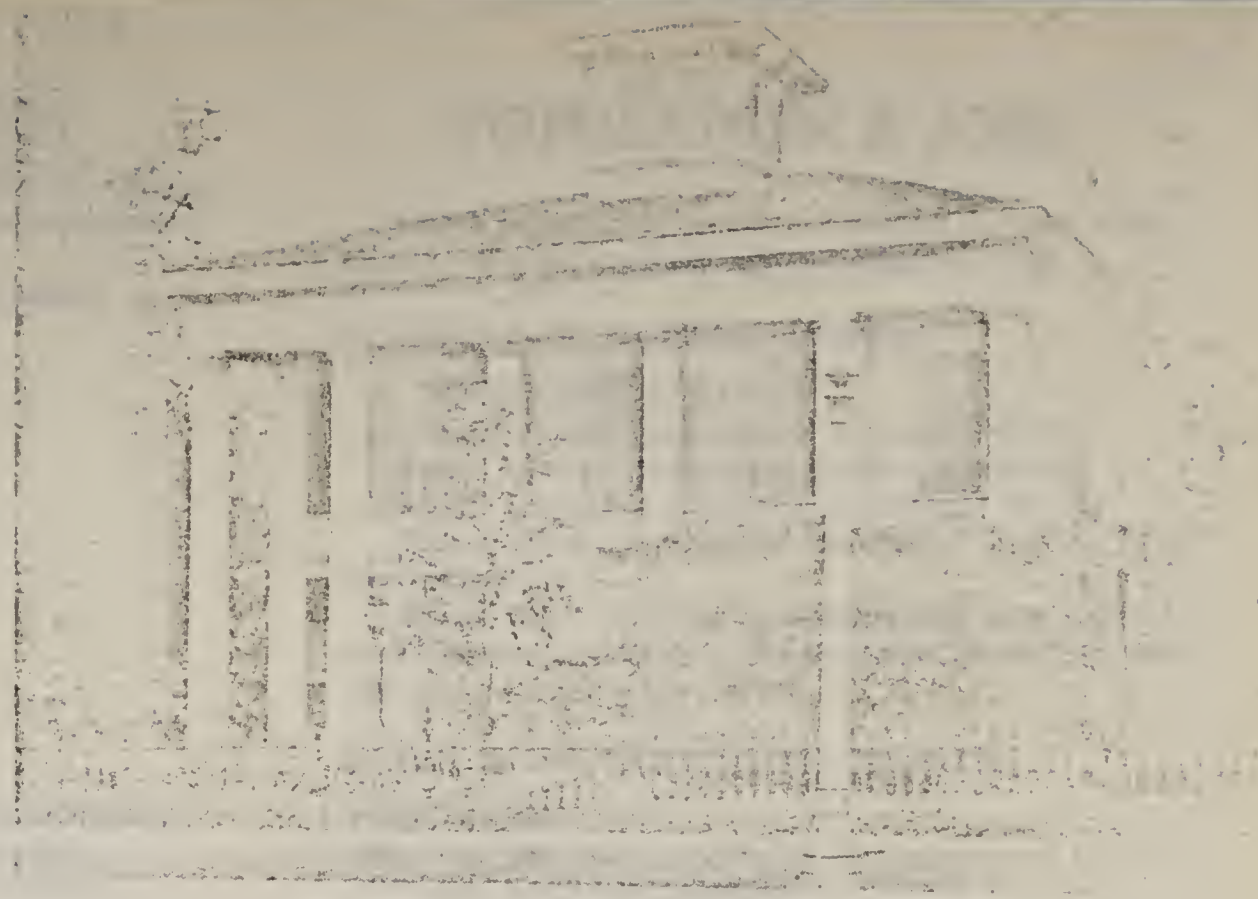
A LESS FAMOUS DEER. Ira Lafever of Beaver Dams on his rural mail route found this newly-born fawn near the roadside, and taking his trusty camera (he has three), got the picture. The roadsides and hills of Schuyler County are a nature lover's and sportsman's paradise. Being a rural mail carrier is an excellent way to see the countryside in all weather.

THE KINGSBURY HOME

Corner 7th & Franklin Sts., Watkins

A fine old home in the prosperous years when large homes were fashionable. Miss Ella Kingsbury was its last occupant. The house was torn down and is now the site of Schuyler Motor Co. Similar fences still linger on in the community, as seen around Dr. J. Y. Roberts' home on Seventh street.

—Photo, Mae Stamp



THE MAGEE MANSION, WATKINS GLEN

Here was the 19th century architecture and wealth. Inlaid ceilings were installed by workers imported from the Orient. Bath tubs were nearly large enough to swim in. A spiral steel slide fire escape was a unique attraction later enjoyed by many who came to the Magee Manor Youth Hostel, one of the finest in the Northeast. Now the home is cut up into apartments. The carriage house is a creamery. The Magees were coal and railroad men and leaders in starting the industrial revolution in this area. Deeply religious, they built and endowed the Presbyterian Church of Watkins Glen and left several thousand dollars to the American Bible Society. They also contributed to other groups, including the Catholic Church for its building fund.

—Photo, Kelly collection

POLITICAL HISTORY

Schuyler County has been fortunate in having county officials who were thoughtful, courageous and active.

The first elected officials following erection of the county in 1854 were:

SUPERVISORS

Phineas Catlin—Catharine
Leroy Wood—Cayuta
W. E. Booth—Dix, Chairman
Henry Fish—Hector
A. S. Newcomb—Orange
Edwin C. Andrews—Reading
George Clark—Tyrone
H. M. Hillerman, Clerk

OTHER OFFICIALS

John J. Taylor—Representative 27th District
Alexander Diven—Senator 27th District
Henry Fish—State Assemblyman (1858)
Simeon Rood—County Judge
Algernon S. Newcomb—County Clerk
John J. Swartwood—Sheriff
Charles J. Broas—Treasurer
Lewis T. Riggs—District Attorney

School Commissioners 1859—William Gulick, Cyrus Roberts, Daniel Beach, Charles Winfield, Lauren Thomas, James H. Pope, Duncan Mand, Charles Andrews.

One hundred years later in 1954 county officials are:

Irving Ives—U. S. Senator
Sterling Cole—Representative
Rev. Dutton S. Peterson—State Senator
Jerry Black—Assemblyman
E. C. Barkman—Judge
Mrs. Adlyn S. George—Clerk (acting)
Dana T. Burt—Sheriff, Morris Burt, Deputy
C. Earle Hager—Treasurer, Belle Edwards, Dep.
Liston Coon—District Attorney
Marjorie Hull—Public Health Nurse
Irving D. Goodrich—Superintendent of Schools

Ernest Porter—Highway Superintendent, Carl Roberts, Deputy

Stewart J. Coats—Veteran's Service Director, Commissioner of Public Welfare

Gertrude R. Symes—Probation Officer

Irving Davis—Agricultural Agent, David Newton, Assistant

Carol Connelly—Home Demonstration Agent
Carl B. Garey—4-H Club Agent

William F. Isley, Kathleen H. Golding, Nellie Love, Board of Elections

SUPERVISORS

Catharine—Joseph J. Hoffman, Chairman
Cayuta—Franklin Eaton
Dix—Jay D. Turner
Hector—Nelson Warren
Montour—James M. Eddy
Orange—Lloyd V. Webb
Reading—Harry C. Klube
Tyrone—Floyd Haff
Clerk—Wilbur D. Blades

In 1856 party vote cast as follows:

Republican 2,342, Democratic 918, American 461.

In 1876, 2,860 Republican, 2254 Democratic, 132 Temperance.

POPULATION & JOBS

Farm population trends make one wonder what's ahead. It's an exciting age in which to live!

CHANGES IN DECADE 1940-50 —

SCHUYLER COUNTY

Urban county population increased 4.8%
Rural county population increased 10.6%
Rural non-farm population increased 36.2%
Rural farm population decreased 11.5% (622 individuals).

Many folks working in urban areas now dwell in rural Schuyler County. Fewer farm hands can turn out more food on our farms.

POPULATION SCHUYLER COUNTY

1850—16,181
1880—18,842 Horse powered & transported farming plus canal and railroad.
1890—16,711 Farm machinery introduced. Italian Immigrants to county.
1900—15,811
1910—14,004 Gasoline powered machinery introduced.
1920—13,098
1930—12,909 Depression, unemployment.
1940—12,979
1950—14,182 Increase 9.3% in decade.

Township population trends 1900-1950 (From W. A. Anderson, Cornell University).

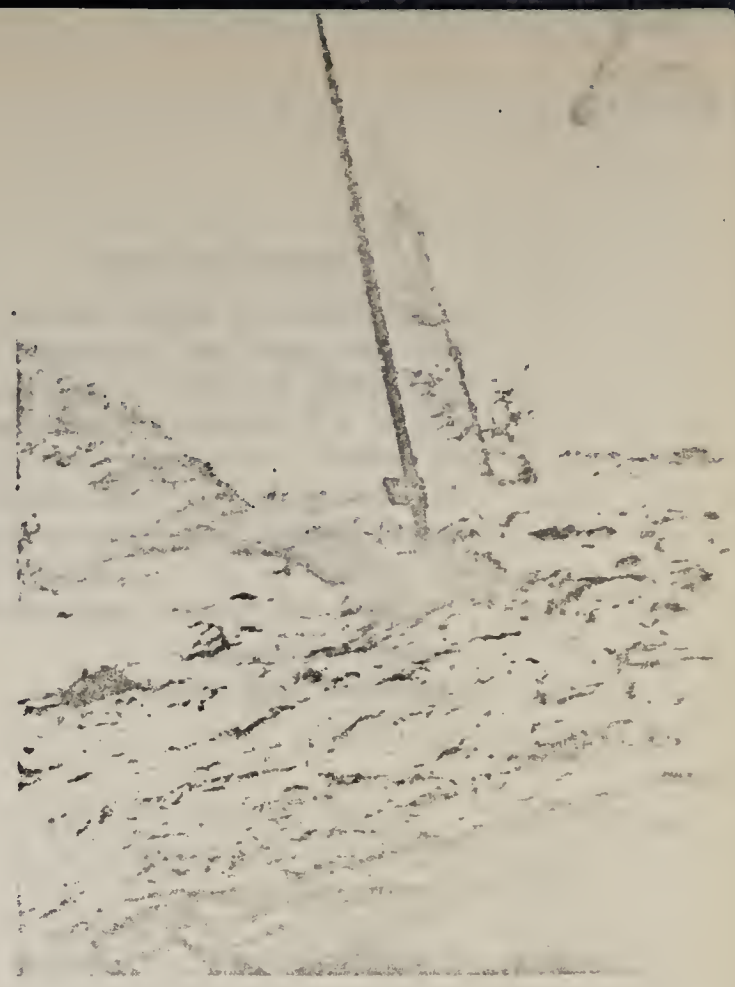
	1845	1900	1940	1950	Increase 1940-50	% change 1900-50
Catharine	2611	1836	1284	1399	9	0.9
Cayuta	1001	459	311	459	47.6	0.0
Dix	2335	3894	3739	3871	3.5	− 0.6
Hector	5904	4137	2949	3129	6.1	−24.4
Montour, see Cath.		1623	1774	1985	11.9	22.3
Orange	1756	1391	693	890	28.4	−36.0
Reading	1555	1335	1205	1373	13.9	2.8
Tyrone	2165	1586	1024	1076	5.1	−32.2

Our present judge, Hon. E. C. Barkman recollects that in the days before blacktop and autos, folks from his home town area, Monterey, had to start on Sunday to get ballots from Watkins for use the following Tuesday election. Snow and mud slowed things down to a walk at times.

Women did not seem over-anxious and still are a bit slow to grasp their newly granted privilege of voting. In general the interest in local and state government has always been keen, however, with the women perhaps using their influence thru their husbands' representation.

THE 1945 SNOWFALL was one of the most persistent in years. The mail must go through, however; also milk must get to market. This is in the town of Dix, but roads everywhere looked like this.

—Photo from Ira Lafever

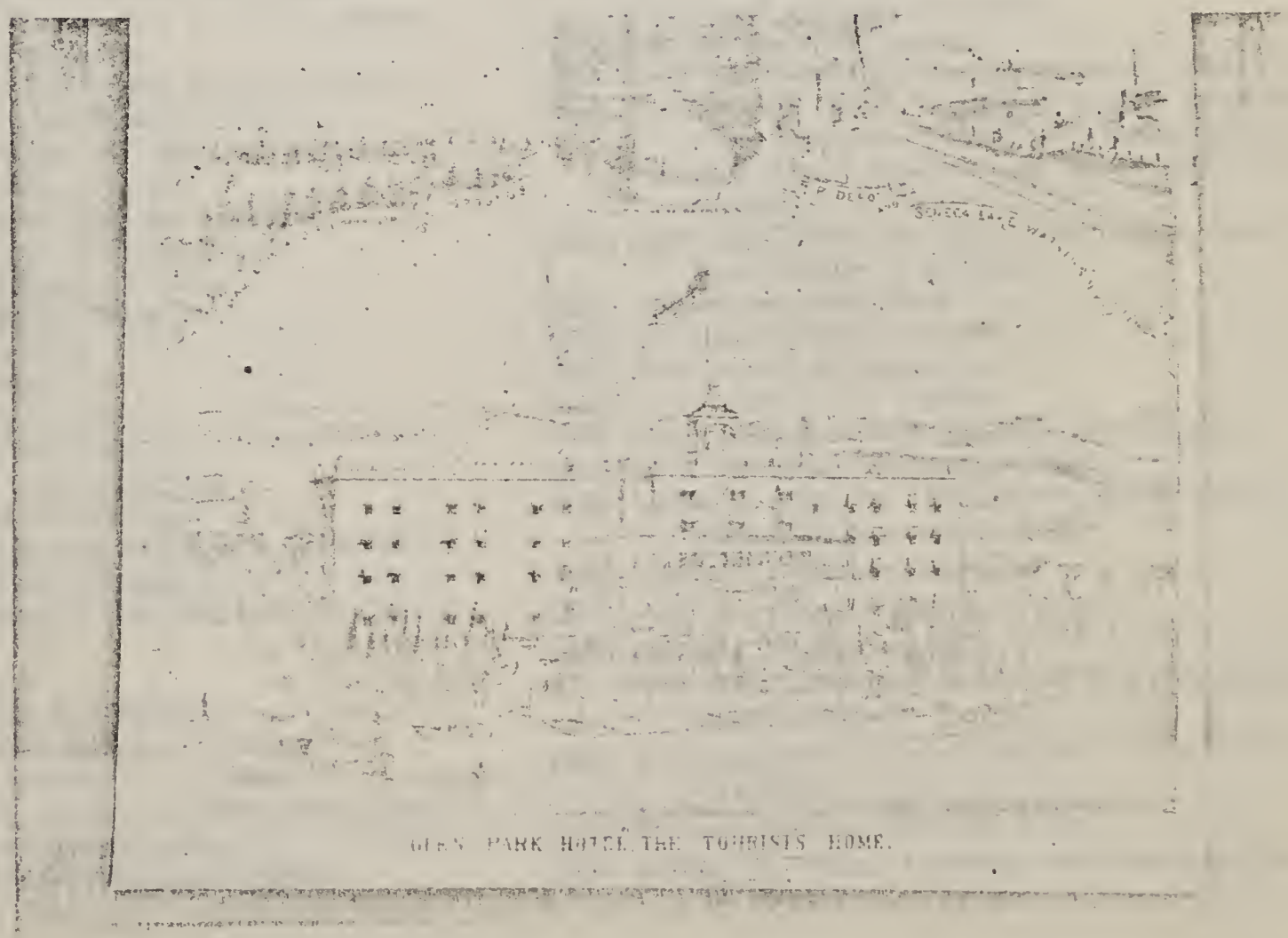


NATURE'S FURY AT MONTOUR FALLS where beautiful Chequaga, running at flood in 1935, sent muddy rivers through the village. Flood control measures, costing $2,123,000., completed in 1952, are designed to control such damage.

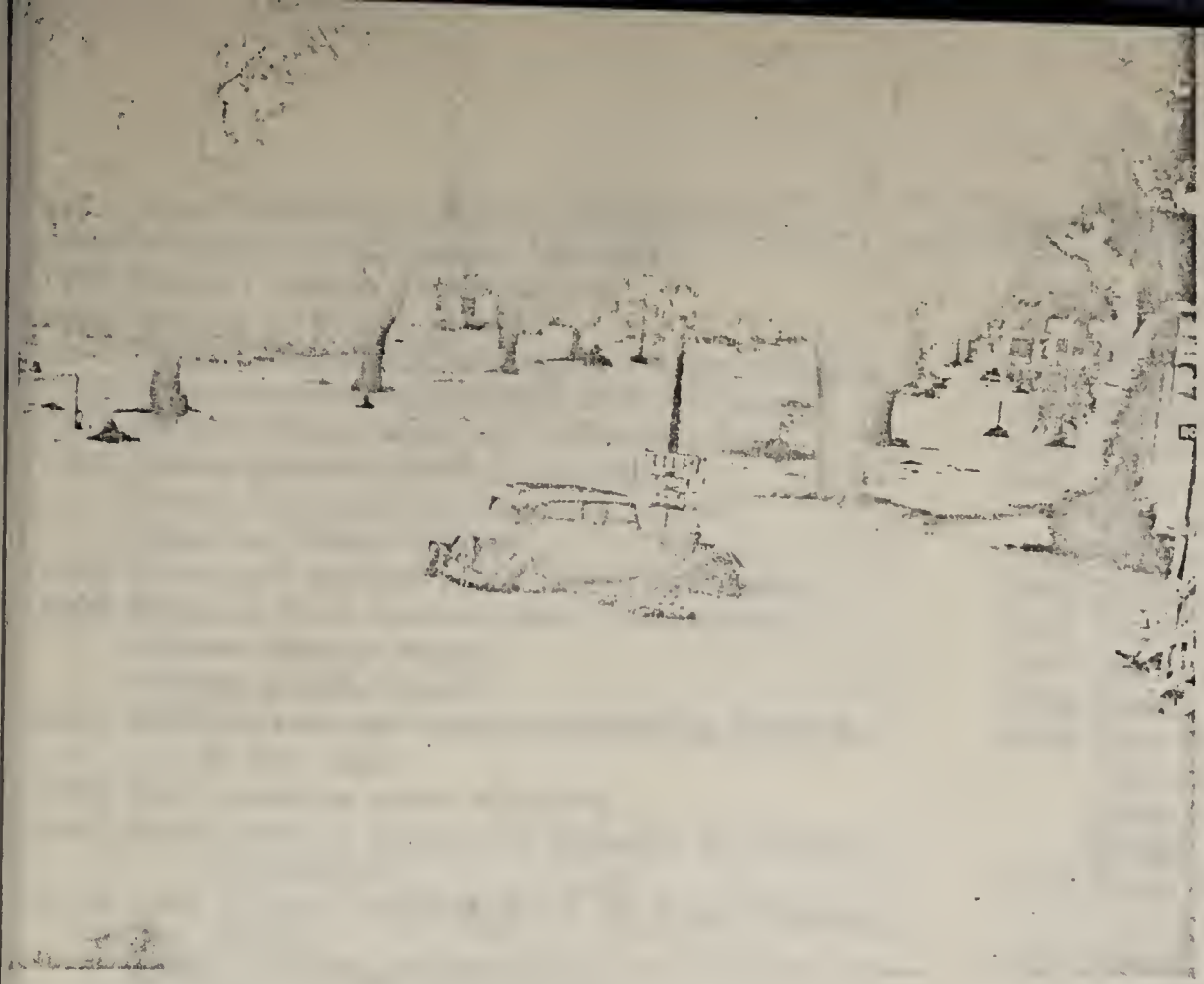
—Photo from Montour Library

THE GLEN PARK HOTEL was one of Watkins' finest in its day. It stood on Franklin Street just north of Durland Place. Note the inserts of lake steamer and the Magnetic and Sulphur Spring Grounds. The hotel was taken down and used for homes in the early part of the 20th century when automobiles and medicine had made the resident cure hotels outmoded to a large degree.

—A. W. Woodward collection



Rates, $2.00,



THE '35 FLOOD

Fourteen inches of rainfall has to go somewhere and when the New York Central Railroad bridge gave way under the pressure of a log jam, that water went down Franklin St., Watkins Glen. This midsummer outpouring cost the county citizens $3,270,380.—a loss of $253. per county man, woman and child.

—Woodward Studio,
William Kelly collection

SOME HIGHLIGHTS — YEAR BY YEAR

1854 Schyuler County erected
Watkins Republican (now Express) started
1855 County buildings erected at Havana
1856 Odd Fellows started at Watkins
1857 April 20—snow 4 ft. deep
May 23—Seneca Lake slightly frozen over
1858 Young America Fire Co. started in Havana
Stages to Ithaca from Havana cost $1.00
1859 Fall Brook Coal Co. started by John Magee
1860 Watkins Academy founded
Catharine Mutual Protection Society started
1861 Charles Cook sent his Guard to war
George Freer married Dr. Watkins' widow
1862 Susan Anthony spoke in county
1863 Ells opened Glen at Watkins to public
Charles Cook started a cheese farm
1864 Schuyler County Bank started
Watkins Union School began
Cook Academy opened
1865 Lincoln assassinated
Cornell University started
Gas & oil struck in Tyrone
1866 Eureka Baseball Club organized
1867 County seat went to Watkins
1868 Masonic picnic opened McClure's (Havana) Glen with 5,000 attending
Presbyterian Church at Watkins built by John Magee
Charles Cook died
1869 Gas lighting begun in Watkins
1870 James Hope started painting in Glen
Watkins library started
1871 Magee trout ponds opened on Mecklenburg Rd.
1872 Watkins Board of Health started
1873 Highland and Schuyler Granges started
Schuyler County Teachers' Association begun
1874 Reading and Olive Branch Granges formed
1875 N. Hector Grange begun
54 churches listed in county
Magnetic Spring House opened
1876 Fall Brook Railroad (now NYC) built through county
Temperance Societies continued strong
1877 County building accounts straightened out
1878 Chemung Canal stopped operations
1879 Brigham Young preached here
131 school districts in county
1880 Big houses being built
1881 Height of county population reported (18,842)
1882 Watkins Oil Well Company struck mineral water and salt over an old Indian spring
Standard time replaced 58 kinds used by railroad
1883 Cronk & Carrier making screwdrivers, rakes, hoes, hiring 71 people
1884 Odessa got telephones
1885 Searsburg Grange started
1886 Gold mined in Monterey
1887 Dime novels very popular
1888 Large wildcat chased and killed in Montour
1889 Glen Springs Sanitarium started
1890 13,000 at work on (Lehigh) Railroad Cayuta. Odessa. Italian colony began
1891 Watkins waterworks begun
1892 Private cottages erected on lakes
1893 Pomona Grange started
Glen Salt Company produced first salt (now International)
1894 39 physicians, 10 stenographers, 13 milliners in county
1895 Havana became Montour Falls
1896 Arthur E. Valois building and decorating at N. Hector

1897 Wm. McKinley's election very spirited
1898 Watkins Salt Company founded
1899 Couch's Odessa Bank started
1900 Trolley to Elmira started
1901 Teddy Roosevelt's Big Stick begins swinging
1902 Glen route trolleys heated with hot water
1903 Shepard-Niles began as Pneumatic Tool
1904 Steam powered autos in county
Seneca Engineering Company started
Montour library started
1905 Municipal electric plant begun in Watkins
1906 Watkins Glen became State reservation
Waneta Grange begun
Odessa school "raised"
1907 RFD carriers got salary increased to $9.00 for 6 day week
1908 Early gasoline autos appeared
1909 Boats took 3 hours, 10 minutes to Geneva via Willard
1910 Jane Delano working hard to form Nursing Service
Townsend Grange organized
1911 Odessa Band of 50 pieces organized
1912 Moving pictures came to Odessa
Street paving started in village
Seneca Lake froze over
1914 Mecklenburg & Cayuta Granges started
1915 Kayutah Lake Grange started
Tobehanna Creek changed to flow to Keuka
1916 Kerosene changed to electric on Odessa streets
1917 Farm Bureau formed in county
1918 Mercury at −32° hereabouts
1919 Finger Lakes Association formed
1920 Shepard Relief Hospital founded
First blacktop on Burdett Hill
1921 Watkins-Montour Rotary Club formed, G. S. in Montour
1922 Lakeside Park developed
Blacktop laid on Lake Road
1923 Cotton-Hanlon begun as mills
1924 15,000 acres of Adirondacks & Catskills burned
1925 Ray Yost's silver fox ranch at Reading in 10th year
1926 Watkins became Watkins Glen
1927 Zonta Club formed
Electricity came to Tyrone
1928 Airplane service started at Love's (Burdett)
1929 Reforestation of 14,000 acres started by state
New high school at Watkins Glen replaced burned one
1930 County's lowest population 12,909 (18,842 in 1880)
1931 Tyrone-Wayne-Altay gas fields developed
1932 Mickey Mouse created by Walt Disney
Height of unemployment
1933 Famous stranded deer in Watkins Glen
F. D. R. began Presidency
1934
1935 CCC started in county
The flood in county
1936 Elizabeth Hopkins retired after 40 years as Montour Librarian
1937 Old Mecklenburg Baptist Church dismantled to make Cayutaville Methodist Church
1938 Odessa School centralized, combining 38 districts
1939 Watkins Glen Municipal Building built, WPA
Grape cooperative begun in Watkins Glen
1940 Population beginning to increase in county
1941 Commander Byrd returned from Antarctic
1942 Nuclear chain reaction (uranium) discovered
1943 Cook Academy closed
Pay as you go income tax started
1944 Winter of the big snow in county
1945 Released religious instruction started
1946 Hidden Valley Camp opened as youth camp
1947 Summer theatre planned
1948 Grand Prix auto races started at Watkins Glen
1949 Glen Springs became Padua High School
Tyrone Fire Dept. formed
John Crawford—"Santa Claus" died
Floods controlled at Montour Falls
1950 Cook Academy became a Friary of Atonement Seminary
1951 County population increased 9.3% in past decade. First increase since 1880
National Archery meet
1952 County Office Building completed
1953 County coordination of fire departments completed
1954 Centennial

WATER SPORTS ON SENECA LAKE IN THE GAY NINETIES

Just rig a hammock between two posts, don your suit (no little task) and get dunked! Some fun! This picture was taken at Valois.
—Glen Mickel collection

A Centennial Committee Is Born

On February third of this year in response to a call issued by Mr. Joseph Hoffman, chairman of the Schuyler County Board of Supervisors, about sixty people met at the Court House to consider plans for the Centennial observance of the founding of Schuyler County on April 17, 1854. The moving spirit for this idea was Mr. Frank Wilkes Severne, revered county historian. It was agreed that a main committee of 15 members, one from each of the eight townships, three from Watkins Glen, two from Montour Falls and one each from Odessa and Burdett, should be appointed.

On March thirty-first this committee met and the following officers were elected: Mr. Bert C. Cate of Montour Falls, president; Mr. Arthur Hoare of Watkins Glen, 1st vice-president; Mrs. Georgia Carney of Odessa, 2nd vice-president; Mr. William R. Kelly of Watkins Glen, secretary and treasurer. Attorney Henry Valent was appointed by the Committee to advise on legal matters and to assist in planning the activities and in carrying them to completion.

The following committees were set up to carry through the various programs of the Committee:

Compiliation of Historical Articles, Pictures and Papers headed by Mr. Myron Bates, assisted by Mrs. Mary Layton, Mrs. Annah Robinson, Mrs. Helen Huey, Mrs. Ethel Tanner and Mr. Russell Martin.

Souvenir Booklet headed by Mr. Wood Howell. Mr. Howell found his work would not permit him to continue with the souvenir booklet. The committee was more than fortunate to get Mr. Carl B. Garey to take over the task, write the history of the one hundred years and amass pictures to help in telling the story.

Display of Old Relics and Souvenirs of the One Hundred Years headed jointly by Mr. John Bolton and Mr. Arthur Hoare.

Insurance for any of the public activities headed jointly by Mr. John Bolton and Mr. Arthur Hoare.

Parade, Pageants and Centennial Speeches headed by Mr. Stewart Coats, assisted by Mr. Ray Horton and Mr. Lloyd Webb.

Centennial Ball, Choosing of a Centennial Queen and Cutting of the Centennial Cake headed by Mrs. Georgia Carney.

There was a very cooperative spirit of helpfulness back and forth on the various committees that accounted for the splendid results that were obtained.

It has been a long and difficult task to get all the facts required by the various committees but patient, persistent effort has borne fruit. The work is completed for the Centennial observance with the printing of this souvenir booklet except for the compiliation of historical records. This will be completed shortly and made available to schools and libraries for permanent record.

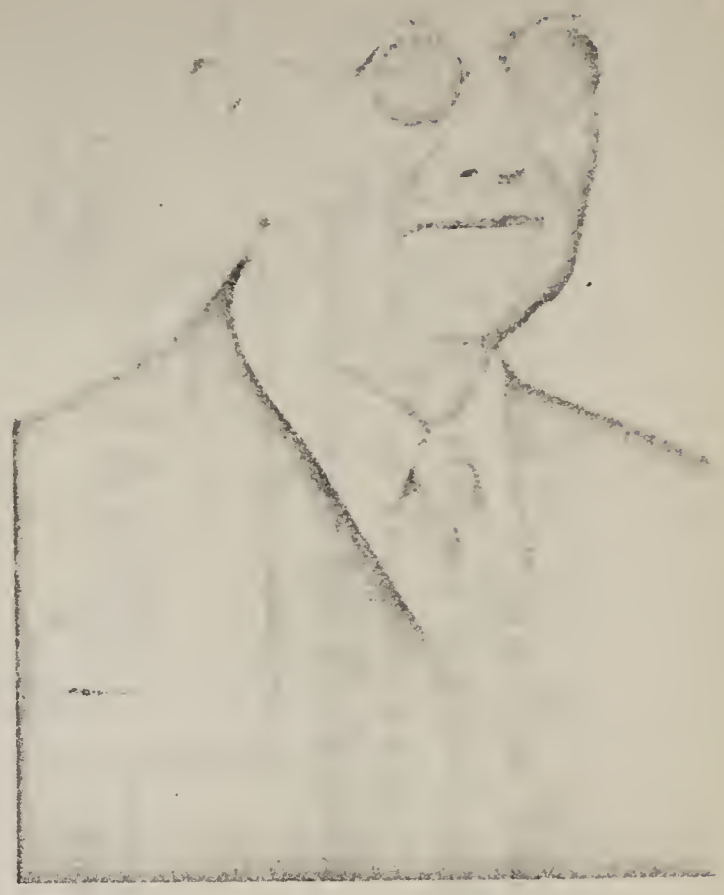
On behalf of the committee of fifteen and on behalf of Attorney Henry Valent who served for the committee, on behalf of Mr. Carl B. Garey who took over the souvenir booklet and did such an unusually fine job, and on behalf of our promotion men, Mr. Roger Reinhart and Mr. Malcolm Currie, I wish to thank the people of Schuyler County for their continued and enthusiastic assistance, without which our efforts would have been unavailing.

It is our hope as a committee that every home in Schuyler County will have a copy of the booklet as a treasured record of one hundred years of splendid service by our forebearers in Schuyler County.

As someone remarked of his alma mater, a little school, so can we paraphrase for our little Schuyler County: "It is a little county, but there are many of us who love it." May our contribution in the second century be of such unselfish quality that it may find its record mentioned in the Centennial booklet of 2054.

Bert C. Cate
Centennial Chairman

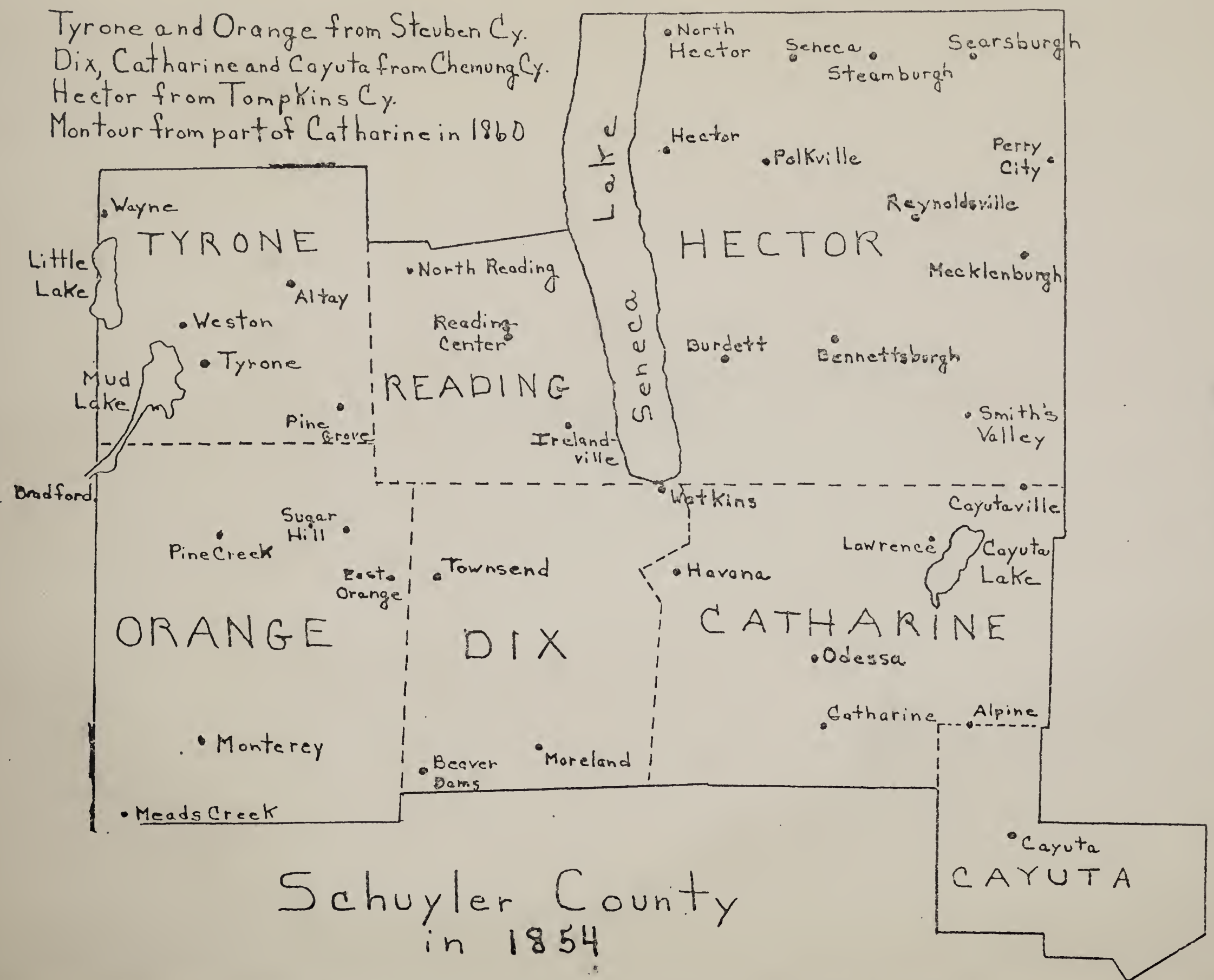
FRANK W. SEVERNE, Schuyler County historian, editor, gentleman and beloved civic leader. He has been instrumental in helping many others who have lost their sight. His inspiration led to a proper observance of Schuyler County's Centennial. His memories, many of which are recorded, provide a rich historical story of some 90 years.



THE SCHUYLER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1954

Left to right: Harry C. Klube, Reading; Lloyd V. Webb, Orange; Floyd Haff, Tyrone; Jay D. Turner, Dix, Joseph J. Hoffman, Chr., Catharine; Nelson Warren, Hector; James M. Eddy, Montour; Franklin Eaton, Cayuta.



Showing the villages in the county in 1854 and origins of each area in the newly erected county